



Health, Aging and
Pensions

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House panel votes Barr in contempt, escalating Trump dispute

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, LISA MASCARO and JONATHAN LEMIRE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee voted Wednesday to hold Attorney General William Barr in contempt of Congress, escalating the Democrats' extraordinary legal battle with the Trump administration over access to special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia report.

The vote capped a day of ever-deepening dispute between congressional Democrats and President Donald Trump, who for the

first time invoked the principle of executive privilege, claiming the right to block lawmakers from the full report on Mueller's probe of Russian interference to help Trump in the 2016 election. Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler of New York declared the action by Trump's Justice Department a clear new sign of the president's "blanket defiance" of Congress' constitutional rights to conduct oversight. "We did not relish doing this, but we have no choice," Nadler said after the vote.

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In this May 1, 2019, file photo, Attorney General William Barr is sworn in to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

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Vice President Mike Pence speaks at the Federalist Society's annual Executive Branch Review Conference, Wednesday, May 8, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

By JILL COLVIN and MARK WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday that the Trump

Trump administration seeks to target nationwide injunctions

administration intends to try to challenge the right of federal district courts to issue nationwide injunctions. In a speech at the Federalist Society conference in Washington, Pence argued that nationwide injunctions issued by federal judges "prevent the executive branch from acting, compromising our national security by obstructing the lawful ability of the president to stop threats to the homeland where he sees them."

He said the administration will seek opportunities to put this question before the Supreme Court "to ensure that decisions affecting every American are made either by those elected to represent the American people or by the highest court in the land."

Top administration officials have often complained about the proliferation of nationwide injunctions since Trump became president on issues ranging from immigration to health care, so the idea of pushing back is not new.

Indeed, the administration has asked the Supreme Court to deal with nationwide injunctions in the past, including in the travel ban case. But the court never addressed the nationwide extent of the injunction against the ban issued by lower courts because the justices upheld the ban in its entirety.

For the Supreme Court to issue a definitive ruling on nationwide injunctions, it would first have to rule against the administration on the underlying merits of the case before it. Only at that point could the court consider whether a lower

court order should apply nationwide or only to the people who are challenging an administration policy.

A nationwide injunction has the effect of stopping "a federal policy everywhere," the administration told the Supreme Court in the travel ban case. The more common practice is for a judge to issue an order that gives only the people who sued what they want.

A White House official said the administration would be looking for potential relevant cases to press the issue, and said Pence also discussed it at the end of the Cabinet meeting convened by the president on Wednesday.

In his remarks, Pence quoted from an opinion by Justice Clarence Thomas, who joined the majority opinion upholding the Trump travel ban last June, but also wrote separately to say nationwide injunctions "are legally and historically dubious" and that the high court would have to step in "if federal courts continue to issue them."

Trump has long railed against district courts, especially the 9th Circuit, for blocking his initiatives, including efforts to overhaul the nation's immigration system.

But Trump won a 2-1 ruling from the 9th Circuit on Tuesday that allows the administration to make asylum seekers wait in Mexico for immigration court hearings while a court challenge continues. □



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Insurance claims from deadly California wildfires top \$12B

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Insurance claims have topped \$12 billion for the November wildfires in California, making them the most expensive in state history.

The figure released Wednesday by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara covers the fire that largely destroyed the town of Paradise and two Southern California blazes. It's up about \$600 million from data released in January. Most of the damages relate to the Paradise fire, which killed 85 people and destroyed nearly 19,000 buildings.

"While last year's tragic wildfires turned thousands of people's lives upside down, insurance is helping to rebuild and recover," Lara said in a news release during Wildfire Preparedness Week.

California experienced some of its deadliest and most destructive wildfires in its history in 2017 and 2018. A series of sweeping fires in late 2017 had been the most expensive, with claims topping \$11.8 billion.

The increasing destruction is making it harder and more costly for people to obtain homeowners insurance.

The insurance department has started collecting data on policy non-renewals to better assess patterns and locations where coverage

is being dropped, Lara said earlier this year.

"Wildfire has long been part of California's landscape and insurers understand that California faces major wildfire risk," said Nicole Mahrt-Ganley of the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, which represents about 60 percent of the nation's property casualty insurance market. "Insurers are still operating in this competitive and stable insurance market." She said in her emailed statement that California homeowners should take steps to mitigate fire damage such as updating their coverage and creating defensible space around their homes.

When insurers decline to renew policies, state law requires them to notify customers about other options. The state has a pooled insurance plan of last result known as the "FAIR plan."

California lawmakers are grappling this year with ways to address the cost and destruction of wildfires. Pacific Gas & Electric Corp., the state's largest utility, filed for bankruptcy in January, saying it could not afford potentially tens of billions of dollars in liability costs related to fires.

State law makes utilities financially liable for damages from wildfires caused by their equipment, even if they aren't found to be negligent.

One legislative proposal

would create a fund for catastrophic wildfires that utilities, insurers and underinsured people could tap to help pay for damages. Legal and financial experts hired by Gov. Gavin Newsom suggested a fund as big as \$40 billion to help cover costs. However, if wildfire losses continue to be as large in future years as they were in 2017 and 2018, a \$40 billion fund would not be large enough, said Nathan Pollak, a consultant with Filsinger Energy Partners. Newsom has not endorsed any particular ideas



In this Dec. 3, 2018, file photo, a vehicle rests in front of a home leveled by the Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif.

Associated Press

but suggested lawmakers consider creating a fund or changing the liability standard for utilities. □

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House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., left, and Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., the ranking member, talk as Nadler moves ahead with a vote to hold Attorney General William Barr in contempt of Congress after last-minute negotiations stalled with the Justice Department over access to the full, unredacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

BARR IN CONTEMPT

Continued from Front

The White House's blockade, he said, "is an attack on the ability of the American people to know what the executive branch is doing." He said, "This cannot be."

But Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said it was disappointing that members of Congress "have chosen to engage in such inappropriate political theatrics."

Barr made "extraordinary efforts" to provide Congress and the public with information about Mueller's work, she said.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said neither the White House nor Barr "will comply with Chairman Nadler's unlawful and reckless demands."

Late Wednesday the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee issued his own subpoena to the Justice Department for the full Mueller report, as the confrontation intensifies.

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California, whose committee had previously requested the documents,

said he has "no choice" but to compel the department's compliance. He warned that if it continues to "ignore or rejects our requests," the panel could take legal action.

Kupec declined to comment.

Though the White House initially hesitated on invoking privilege, Trump told his staff and political advisers in recent weeks to refuse to cooperate with Democrats, believing the party's goal was simply to damage him politically going into his re-election campaign. The coming legal battle could stretch to 2020, and the White House is aiming to tie up congressional probes until Election Day.

Executive privilege is the president's power to keep information from the courts, Congress and the public to protect the confidentiality of the Oval Office decision-making process.

The president's decision was weeks in the making, the next inevitable escalation between the White House and Congress over a number of probes. The White House has rejected

all efforts to probe Trump's business dealings or tax returns as well as the West Wing's security clearance procedure.

The committee voted along party lines, 24-16, to recommend the full House hold Barr in contempt, but only after some five hours of heated and, at times, emotional testimony.

Democrats made their case that Congress was at a historic juncture as it confronts what they consider Trump's stonewalling of lawmakers' ability to conduct oversight of the administration. Republicans portrayed the majority as angry and lashing out at Barr after the special counsel did not find that Trump colluded with Russia to swing the 2016 election.

Said Democrat Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas: "The president now seeks to take a wrecking ball to the Constitution of the United States." And Rep. Cedric Richmond of Louisiana said the road ahead may be "messy" but Democrats must fight to "protect our democracy." Other Democrats called the standoff a "serious" and "grave" moment.

However, the panel's top Republican, Doug Collins of Georgia, said Democrats were manufacturing a crisis and rushing the process to "sully Bill Barr's good name." Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, a Trump ally, said the Democrats were trying to "delegitimize" the president and biding time before they try to impeach him.

"Get over it," Gaetz said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said the next step will be consideration by the full House. Nadler said that will happen soon.

If approved by the House, where the Democrats hold a solid majority, the contempt resolution would almost certainly move to an

unusual, and potentially protracted, multi-pronged court battle with the Trump administration.

The contempt finding could be referred to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, a Justice Department official who would be likely to defend rather than oppose Barr. Democratic House leaders could also file a lawsuit, though the case could take months or even years to resolve. Some committee members have suggested they also could fine Barr as he withholds information.

Nadler said Wednesday the Trump administration's refusal to provide the special counsel's full Russia report to Congress presents a "constitutional crisis."

In a letter Wednesday to Trump, Barr explained that the special counsel's files contain millions of pages of classified and unclassified information. He said it was the committee's "abrupt resort to a contempt vote" that "has not allowed sufficient time for you to consider fully whether to make a conclusive assertion of executive privilege."

Barr told Trump he should assert privilege now, "pending a full decision on the matter."

Talks with the Justice Department broke down over the committee's subpoena for an unredacted version of the report.

Barr released a redacted version of Mueller's 400-plus-page report to the public last month, but Democrats subpoenaed the full document, along with underlying evidence.

The department has rejected that demand, while allowing a few top lawmakers from the House and Senate to view a version with fewer redactions. That version blacks out grand jury information, which

needs a judge's approval for release, and it doesn't include the report's underlying evidence. Democrats have said they won't view that version until they get broader access.

Almost half the report's pages contain some type of redaction including those around the Russian influence campaign, presidential pardons and other topics.

Barr has refused to testify in public to the committee after a disagreement over the Democrats' demand that he answer questions from a staff attorney in addition to lawmakers. The committee is in talks for Mueller himself to appear May 15, but there is no agreement yet, and Trump has said Mueller should not testify.

Nadler also has threatened to hold former White House Counsel Don McGahn in contempt of Congress if he doesn't testify before the committee later this month. Nadler rejected a White House claim that documents McGahn refused to provide despite a subpoena are controlled by the White House and thus McGahn has no legal right to them.

Pelosi, who has tamped down calls from her liberal flank to launch impeachment proceedings against Trump, said in a Washington Post interview Wednesday that the president, by obstructing Congress was becoming "self-impeachable."

Mueller, in his report, said he could not establish a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia, but he did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Barr said he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein decided there were not grounds to charge Trump with obstruction. □

U.S. will train dozens of border agents to screen for asylum

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (AP) — Immigration officials will train dozens of U.S. border patrol agents to start screening immigrants arriving on the southwest border for asylum amid a surge in the number of families seeking the protection, a government official said Wednesday.

L. Francis Cissna, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said his agency will train about 60 border agents over the next few months to join in conducting the screenings on the U.S.-Mexico border. The first group of 10 agents will start receiving training in Los Angeles next week. "These agents are going to be receiving weeks of training. They're going to be here at least a month," Cissna said in an interview with The Associated Press on a visit to immigration offices in Laguna Niguel, California. "And so too will all the subsequent cadres of border patrol agents."

The move comes as the Trump administration is grappling with a surge in

the number of families with children arriving on the border. Border arrests are down compared with decades ago, but the number of children and families seeking asylum, many of them from Central America, has risen in recent years.

The number of immigrants apprehended on the border topped 100,000 for the second month in a row in April, the highest number recorded since 2007.

Asylum officers conduct initial interviews of immigrants arriving on the border to determine whether they have a credible fear of returning to their countries or should be sent back. Those who pass the interviews are allowed to seek asylum before an immigration judge, but their cases may take years to wind through the backlogged immigration courts.

Immigrant advocates have voiced concerns about border patrol agents conducting the screenings, which are meant to be interviews, not interrogations. Clara Long, senior researcher for Human Rights Watch, said agents of-



L. Francis Cissna, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, sits for a photo in Laguna Niguel, Calif., Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

ten intimidate immigrants when initially asking if they fear returning to their countries.

"What we see over and over again is Border Patrol just has a culture of disbelieving asylum seekers," she said. "It's really hard to imagine these agents being able to create the openness and trust and listening that's really required for a credible fear interview."

A message was sent to

U.S. Customs and Border Protection seeking comment. Cissna said he was confident agents could conduct the interviews and would be fully trained.

In addition to the border patrol agents, two dozen employees at the immigration services agency who have worked on asylum in the past are helping conduct the screenings, and a few dozen more have volunteered to do so, Cissna said. □

Florida governor signs bill allowing more armed teachers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — More Florida teachers will be eligible to carry guns in the classroom under a bill Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed Wednesday that immediately implements recommendations from a commission formed after the Parkland high school mass shooting. DeSantis signed the bill in private and didn't issue a statement afterward. But he made it clear he supports the changes made to the law enacted after a rifle-toting former student walked into Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and killed 17 people in February 2018.

The bill was one of the most

contentious of the legislative session that ended Saturday. It expands the "guardian" program that allows school districts to approve school employees and teachers with a role outside the classroom, such as a coach, to carry guns. School districts have to approve and teachers have to volunteer. They then go through police-like training with a sheriff's office and undergo a psychiatric evaluation and a background check.

The new law expands the program to make all teachers eligible regardless of whether they have a non-classroom role. Democrats spent hours ar-

guing against the bill, saying it could lead to accidental shootings, or that a

teacher could panic and fire during a confrontation with students. □

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Oregon teachers walk out in red to press for school funding



Thousands of teachers and education supporters march in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and

SARAH ZIMMERMAN

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Tens of thousands of teachers across Oregon walked off the job Wednesday to demand more money for schools, holding signs and wearing red shirts that have become synonymous with a nationwide movement pushing lawmakers to better fund education.

Schools around the state, including Oregon's largest district, Portland Public Schools, closed for at least part of the day. Most offered day care and free lunch programs.

An estimated 25,000 people massed in a downtown Portland park for a rally before marching through the city. The mix of teachers, parents and students wore red to support the "Red for Ed" campaign that's taken hold nationwide and chanted that slogan.

It was one of many protests statewide that called on lawmakers to expand school funding in Oregon, which has some of the largest class sizes and lowest graduation rates in the United States.

Kathy Paxton-Williams, who

attended public school in Oregon and has been teaching in Portland for more than 20 years, said she has seen dramatic changes.

"Every year, for the last 21 years, there's been cuts and cuts and cuts," she said.

The walkout follows a wave of teacher activism that began in West Virginia in 2018 and was followed by Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona and elsewhere. Teachers in North Carolina and South Carolina rallied at their respective state capitols last week seeking more money. Unlike other states, Oregon teachers are not seeking pay raises or other union demands. They say they're walking out to highlight classroom conditions and how years of low funding has affected learning opportunities.

Some school administrators didn't agree with the walkout. In Grants Pass, one of Oregon's most conservative cities, students are volunteering to wash firetrucks or play music in nursing homes to show why the community should value education, Superintendent

Kirk Kolb said.

"Walking out of school and closing school, we agree that's not a message we want to represent," Kolb said. "We have to be there for our kids because they rely on us to provide them a real positive, stable place." Districts decided whether to close schools, and in many cases, they will have to make up for the lost time. Portland Public Schools, for example, closed all day when more than 500 teachers said they would participate, spokesman Harry Esteve said. The district is adding a day to the end of the year.

The walkout comes as Republican senators are blocking a vote on legislation to raise \$1 billion a year for schools. The absence of all 12 Republicans for a second day Wednesday denied the Senate enough

members to vote on the half a percent tax on some of Oregon's wealthiest businesses. Republicans say the tax plan would raise the prices of consumer goods without fixing the education system. They also said they would not support a funding package that doesn't address the state's pension debt, which has soared past \$25 billion.

GOP Sen. Tim Knopp says Republicans are "in for the long haul" and won't return to the state Capitol in Salem until majority Democrats agree to renegotiate. About 1,500 teachers and supporters marched to the state Capitol, chanting, "Do your job!" to press Republicans to come back to vote.

John Larson, president of the Oregon Education Association, said Republicans' refusal is exactly why

teachers are protesting.

"It just mystifies me that adults just can't sit in a room and do what's right for kids," he said.

Oregon schools are unusually dependent on state money after voters changed the school funding formula in the 1990s in an effort to limit property taxes. Since then, lawmakers have struggled to find an adequate source of revenue to keep up with rising costs.

The walkout builds on the previous strikes nationwide but also shows teacher demands are going beyond pay, said Robert Bruno, an expert on teacher labor issues at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

"Now the issues are far more diverse, and they're about cultural inclusion, they're about fighting poverty, about making sure that you get schools some nurses," he said.

For example, teachers in Woodburn say they need more counselors and support staffers to respond to the increasing number of students displaying complex behavioral problems. A third of students are English language learners and over 40% of families rely on food stamps in the town about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Portland.

"They have to be both a teacher and a counselor to the more than 30 kids in their class," said Cherene Mills, a teacher at Valor Middle School.

Some parents said they understood the reasons behind the walkout.

"It's inconvenient, yeah, but it's something that has to happen," said Armando Gonzalez, who said he worked from home to care for his two daughters. "But, hey, what's a little inconvenience when it's about doing right by our kids?" □





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Slain teen charged attacker in Colorado school shooting

By KATHLEEN FOODY, P. SOLOMON BANDA and NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colo. (AP) — When a gunman burst into his high school classroom, Kendrick Castillo did not hesitate.

The 18-year-old immediately charged, pinning the attacker to the wall before Castillo was fatally shot protecting classmates, witnesses said. As he charged, so did two other students. One of them, Brendan Bialy, wrestled the gun from the shooter's hand and the students subdued him.

A second shooter was captured by an armed security guard.

Authorities said these acts of bravery helped minimize the bloodshed from Tuesday's attack, which also wounded eight people.

"We're going to hear about very heroic things that have taken place at the school," Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock said Wednesday.

The attackers were identified by law enforcement officials as 18-year-old Devon Erickson and a 16-year-old who prosecutors identified as Maya McKinney but whose attorney said uses male pronouns and the name Alec. The two allegedly walked into the STEM School Highlands Ranch through an entrance without metal detectors and opened fire in two classrooms.

Because the attack happened only miles from Columbine High School and just weeks after the shooting's 20th anniversary, questions quickly arose about whether it was inspired by the 1999 massacre. But investigators offered no immediate motive.

Castillo sprang into action against the shooter "and

immediately was on top of him with complete disregard for his own safety," said Bialy, a close friend of Castillo's who has signed up to join the Marines.

A member of the school's robotics club and a relentless tinkerer, Castillo had an infectious smile and gentle sense of humor, according to friends. He worked part-time at a local manufacturing company that had offered him a job after an internship because he was such a standout employee. "To find he went down as a hero, I'm not surprised. That's exactly who Kendrick was," said Rachel Short, president of the company, Baccara.

Cecilia Bedard, 19, had known Castillo since elementary school and said he was always friendly, modest and excited to help people. He made a point of always joining his father at Knights of Columbus fundraisers and bingo nights.

"He was amazing," Bedard said. "He was honestly the sweetest kid I ever met. Never said a mean joke." Bialy smiled as he recounted the struggle with the shooter to reporters, saying that he wanted to focus on the positive. "They completely and utterly failed in a matter of half a minute," he said of the attackers.

"What I saw yesterday was the absolute best of people," he added.

Bialy would not identify the third student who helped subdue the gunman, but the family of Jason Jones put out a statement saying he was shot twice while disarming one of the attackers.

The security guard who detained the second armed suspect was employed by Boss High Level Protection, a company started by a

former SWAT team leader who responded to the Columbine shooting. The owner, Grant Whitus, told The Associated Press the security guard is a former Marine who ran to the area of the shootings and confronted one of the armed students in a hallway.

The guard drew his weapon and apprehended the person, Whitus said.

"He doesn't even realize how many lives he saved by stopping a school shooting," Whitus said.

Both suspects were students at the school, and they were not previously known to authorities, Spurlock said.

Erickson made his first court appearance Wednesday and kept his head down. His black hair, streaked with purple dye, covered his face as he nodded in response to most of District Court Judge Theresa Slade's questions. At one point, the judge requested a verbal answer to whether he had any questions about the proceedings. Erickson simply replied "No."

McKinney, who has a short brown haircut, made eye contact with the judge and answered questions in a clear but quiet voice, saying "Yes, your honor" and "No, your honor."

District attorney George Brauchler said he has not decided whether to file adult charges but added that McKinney is old enough to be charged as an adult without a judge's review.

Formal charges were expected to be filed by Friday. Brauchler said he could not discuss any motive or weapons used in the attack.

A message left at a phone number listed for Erickson's home was not immediately returned.



This undated photo provided by Rachel Short shows Kendrick Castillo, who was killed during a shooting at the STEM School Highlands Ranch on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Associated Press

Josh Dutton, 18, said he was close friends with Erickson in middle school but had not seen him for four years while attending a different high school. On Sunday, he spotted Erickson at a local light rail station and said he was shocked at how much his friend had changed.

Erickson wore all black and was significantly thinner and did not seem interested in talking.

"He said he'd just turned 18 and he owned rifles," Dutton said.

The shooting took place exactly a week after a gunman killed two students and wounded four at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. In that case as well, one of the fatalities was a student who charged the attacker.

The Colorado attack unfolded came nearly three weeks after neighboring Littleton marked the anniversary of the Columbine attack that killed 13 people. The two schools are separated by about 7 miles (11 kilometers) in adjacent communities south of Denver. Brauchler said the community remains resilient in the face of multiple shootings, including Columbine, the 2012 theater shooting in the Denver suburb of Aurora and the 2013 shooting at Arapahoe High School. The attacks are "aberrant acts" although they might seem otherwise to the rest of the world, he said. "Who we are is a kind, compassionate, caring people, and this does not define us." □

Europeans struggle to preserve Iran nuclear accord

By DAVID RISING

BERLIN (AP) — The world powers struggling to preserve a nuclear deal with Iran are facing an increasingly uphill battle, with a new deadline from Tehran on finding a solution to make up for last year's unilateral U.S. withdrawal from the accord and the increasing economic hardship that has put on the Islamic Republic.

After Iran notified Britain, Russia, China, the European Union, France and Germany of its intentions in a letter, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said in a televised address Wednesday that the nations have 60 days to come up with a plan to shield his country from the sanctions imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump after he pulled Washington out of the deal.

"If the five countries join negotiations and help Iran to reach its benefits in the field of oil and banking, Iran will return to its commitments according to the nuclear deal," Rouhani said.

The 2015 deal, intended to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, promised economic incentives in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear activities. Despite efforts so far by the others to keep the deal from col-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets with Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, right, at 10 Downing Street in central London, Wednesday May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

lapsing, Iran's economy has been struggling and its currency has plummeted in value after the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions.

Later Wednesday, Trump issued an executive order announcing new sanctions targeting Iran's steel, aluminum, copper and iron sectors, which provide foreign currency earnings for Tehran.

Many international corporations are reluctant to risk running afoul of Washington and have severed ties

with Iran; a complicated barter-type system set up by the Europeans to allow their businesses to skirt direct financial transactions with Iran — and thus evade possible U.S. sanctions — is not yet finalized.

Iran has continued abiding by the stipulations of the deal, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, but had been expressing increasing frustration with the inability of the Europeans to provide economic relief, culminating

with Wednesday's threat to resume higher enrichment of uranium in 60 days unless new terms are negotiated.

Despite Rouhani's threatening rhetoric and the now-ticking clock, Europeans were cautiously hoping the Iranian president was not on the verge of breaking the deal but instead seeking to show strength domestically as the economy slumps.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said his office had been in contact with all the others involved in the Iran deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, since the announcement to see what could be done to get Tehran to back down.

"Our opinion is and remains: We want to preserve the agreement, in particular to prevent Iran from coming into possession of nuclear weapons," he told reporters. "We don't need further escalation in the region."

Similarly, French Defense Minister Florence Parly told BFMTV television that "nothing would be worse than Iran leaving this deal."

"We absolutely want to keep this agreement alive," Parly said.

At a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in London, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt called Iran's threat "unwelcome" and urged it

not to take "further escalatory steps," while emphasizing Britain was not ready to give up on the JCPOA.

"For as long as Iran keeps its commitments then so, too, will the United Kingdom," he said.

Hunt said Britain and the U.S. agreed on the need to confront the threat from Iran, but "it's no secret we have a different approach on how best to achieve that."

Pompeo was restrained in his own assessment of the letter that Iran sent to the JCPOA group outlining its intentions.

"I think it was intentionally ambiguous," he said. "We'll have to wait to see what Iran's actions actually are. They have made have made a number of statements about actions they have threatened to do in order to get the world to jump."

In his television address, Rouhani also tried a gambit designed to hit a sore spot for Europe, over the issue of migration and drug-smuggling.

Noting that Iran now cooperates on issues like controlling immigration and targeting Afghan opium and hashish traffickers, he said: "You are obliged ... for your own security, for protecting your youths against drugs as well as controlling influx of immigrants."

There was no immediate response from officials in Europe, which has seen an influx of refugees and migrants from the Middle East in recent years.

China, a key Iranian ally and trading partner, suggested that Washington's recent decision to deploy an aircraft carrier group and a bomber wing to the Middle East to confront unspecified threats from Tehran had added fuel to the fire.

"We regret that the U.S. has further aggravated the tension on the Iranian nuclear issue," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said. "We call on all parties concerned to exercise restraint, strengthen dialogue and avoid escalating tensions." □

Police say 12 injured in northern Germany rail crash



Firefighters stand at the railway line in Alt Duvenstedt, near Rendsburg, Germany, Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Police say 12 people have been injured,

two of them seriously, after a train crashed into a transport truck in northern Ger-

many.

The crash occurred early Wednesday when a regional train hit a truck stopped on a rail crossing in the state of Schleswig-Holstein, not far from the Danish border.

A spokesman for Neumuenster police, Michael Heinrich, said it was unclear why the tractor-trailer stopped on the tracks. The driver managed to jump from the cabin shortly before the crash.

German news agency dpa reported that the train partially derailed, interrupting traffic between Hamburg and Flensburg. □

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UN chief says 'total disaster' if warming not stopped

By SETH BORENSTEIN

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations secretary-general said the world must dramatically change the way it fuels factories, vehicles and homes to limit future warming to a level scientists call nearly impossible.

That's because the alternative "would mean a catastrophic situation for the whole world," António Guterres told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview.

Guterres said he's about to tour Pacific islands to see how climate change is devastating them as part of his renewed push to fight it. He is summoning world leaders to the U.N. in September to tell them "they need to do much more in order for us to be able to reverse the present trends and to defeat the climate change."

That means, he said, the world has to change, not in small incremental ways but in big "transformative" ways, into a green economy with electric vehicles and "clean cities."

Guterres said he will ask leaders to stop subsidizing fossil fuels. Burning coal, oil and gas triggers warming by releasing heat-trapping gases.

He said he wants countries to build no new coal power plants after 2020. He wants them to put a price on the use of carbon. And ultimately he wants to make sure that by 2050 the world is no longer putting more greenhouse gases into the air than nature sucks out.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during an interview at United Nations headquarters on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

Associated Press

Global temperatures have already risen about 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius) since the industrial age began. The issue is how much more the thermometers will rise.

In 2015, the world's nations set a goal to limit global warming to no more than 0.9 degrees (0.5 degrees Celsius) from now. Most scientists say it is highly unlikely, if not outright undoable, to keep man-made climate change that low, especially since emissions of heat trapping gases are rising, renewable energy growth is plateauing, and some countries' leaders and voters are balking. A panel of scientists the U.N. asked to look at the issue ran computer models for more than 500 future scenarios, and less than 2% achieved those warming limits.

Guterres said the wholesale

economic changes needed to keep the temperature from rising another degree or more may be painful, but there will be more pain if the world fails.

"If you don't hang on to that goal, what you'll achieve is a total disaster," the secretary-general said in his 38th floor conference room.

If countries only do what they promised in the 2015 Paris climate agreement, it would be catastrophic because the world would warm by another 4.5 degrees (2.5 degrees Celsius), Guterres said, adding "that is why we need to dramatically accelerate... what everybody knows needs to be done."

Yet, globally the trends are going the other way. University of Michigan environment

Jonathan Overpeck said it looks unlikely that the world could prevent another 1.8 degrees (1 Celsius) of warming, let alone 0.9 degrees.

And in an odd way that gives the U.N. chief optimism.

Because as disasters mount and deaths increase, the public, especially youths, will realize that warming is "a dramatic threat to the whole of humankind," Guterres said.

So the worse it gets, the more people will demand change, he said.

That's why he's about to visit the islands of Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu in the Pacific Ocean, which he said is hit hardest by climate change. Guterres said he wants to use the determination and moral authority of the people who live on the threatened islands to convince world leaders to

make necessary change. Here are some excerpts from the 25-minute interview with Guterres, who said he used to love steak houses but now only goes once every three months because livestock contribute significantly to warming. The questions and answers have been edited for clarity and length:

Q: How can you be optimistic?

A: That is the paradox. Things are getting worse. Temperatures are rising faster than expected. We see the Arctic melting. We see glaciers disappearing. We see corals bleaching. We see biodiversity being dramatically threatened. So things are getting worse and worse. But the political will has been

slow. We need to reverse this trend. We need to make people understand that this is not sustainable. And the reason why I'm optimistic is that I feel that more and more people are convinced of that. And as more and more people are convinced of that, I believe governments will feel the need to increase their political will which at this present moment is still lagging behind.

You have seen the fantastic attitude of young girls and boys making a strike in favor of climate action. You see more and more business and communities assuming responsibilities.

Q: Can you fight climate change and biodiversity loss at the same time?

A: Climate change is a major threat to biodiversity. It's because of climate change that species are disappearing. □

Iran threatens more uranium enrichment if no new nuke deal

By AMIR VAHDAT

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran threatened Wednesday to enrich its uranium stockpile closer to weapons-grade levels in 60 days if world powers fail to negotiate new terms for its 2015 nuclear deal, raising regional tensions as a U.S. aircraft carrier and bombers headed to the Middle East to confront Tehran.

A televised address by President Hassan Rouhani, who once pledged that the landmark deal would draw Iran closer to the West, saw the cleric instead pressure Europe to shield Tehran from the sanctions imposed by President Donald Trump withdrawing the U.S. from the agreement exactly a year earlier.

Rouhani's threats put the world on notice that it cannot continue to rely on Iran complying with terms of the unraveling deal in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, a U.S. campaign of sanctions hammering Iran's anemic economy and blocking its sale of oil on the global market is only making life worse, putting further pressure on both its Shiite theocracy and its 80 million people.

Later Wednesday, Trump issued an executive order announcing new sanctions targeting Iran's steel, aluminum, copper and iron sectors, which provide foreign currency earnings for Tehran.

Rouhani earlier compared the situation to a medical emergency for the Islamic Republic, only 40 years after its founding.

"We felt that the nuclear deal needs a surgery, and the painkiller pills of the last year have been ineffective," Rouhani said. "This surgery is for saving the deal, not destroying it."

Iran on Wednesday stopped its sale of excess uranium and heavy water as a first step, Rouhani said, something required under the deal. The U.S. last week ended deals allowing Iran to exchange its enriched uranium for unrefined yellowcake uranium with Russia,



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Hassan Rouhani heads a cabinet meeting in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

sia, and to sell its heavy water, which is used as a coolant in nuclear reactors, to Oman.

In 60 days, if no new deal is in place, Iran will increase its enrichment of uranium beyond the accord-permitted 3.67%, which can fuel a commercial nuclear power plant. Rouhani did not say how far Iran would be willing to enrich, although the head of its nuclear program again reiterated Iran could reach 20% enrichment within four days.

Once a country enriches uranium to around 20%, scientists say the time needed to reach the 90% threshold for weapons-grade uranium is halved. Iran long has maintained its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. However, Iranian state television's English-language service Press TV, citing sources close to presidency, said the country would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty if Europeans sought to sanction Iran at the U.N. Security Council.

Rouhani also said that if the 60 days pass without action, Iran will halt a Chinese-led effort to redesign its Arak heavy water nuclear reactor. Such reactors produce plutonium that can be used in nuclear weapons.

Iran notified Britain, Russia, China, the European Union, France and Germany of its decision earlier in the day. All were signatories to the nuclear deal and continue to support it. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met Wednesday in Moscow with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov and offered a letter as well. "If the five countries join negotiations and help Iran to reach its benefits in the field of oil and banking, Iran will return to its commitments according to the nuclear deal," Rouhani said.

Zarif separately issued his own warning from Moscow. "After a year of patience, Iran stops measures that (the) US has made impossible to continue," he tweeted. World powers have "a narrowing window to reverse this."

Reaction came swiftly from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a staunch critic of Iran and the nuclear deal.

"I heard that Iran intends to continue its nuclear program. We will not allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said. "We will continue to fight those who seek to take our lives, and we will thrust our roots even deeper into the soil of our homeland."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo, in London, said America "will wait and observe" what Iran does next. "They have made have made a number of statements about actions they have threatened to do in order to get the world to jump," Pompeo said.

Rouhani also made an implicit threat as well to Europe, saying Iran now cooperates on issues like targeting Afghan opium and hashish traffickers and controlling immigration.

"You are obliged ... for your own security, for protecting your youths against drugs as well as controlling influx of immigrants," the president said.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt called Iran's threat to resume higher enrichment of uranium an "unwelcome step." French Defense Secretary Florence Parly was much more dire. "Nothing would be worse than Iran leaving this deal," he told BMFTV.

Iran's move comes at a sensitive moment in the wider Middle East. The White House said it dispatched the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf over what it described as a new threat from Iran. Israel, which has conducted pre-emptive bombings of nuclear facilities in Iraq

and Syria, has vowed to never allow Iran to obtain an atomic weapon.

Apparently responding to that, the general staff of Iran's armed forces issued a statement applauding Rouhani's decision and warning its enemies.

"Any possible movement by them will face a regrettable response by Iranian nation and its armed forces," the statement said, according to the semi-official Fars news agency.

The 2015 deal lifted sanctions on Iran in exchange for limits on its nuclear program. It reached the deal after years of negotiations, including secret talks in Oman between Iran and the administration of former President Barack Obama.

The U.S. withdrew from the deal under Trump, whose administration contends the accord should have limited Iran's ballistic missile program and what it describes as Tehran's malign regional influence.

However, the U.N.'s atomic watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, repeatedly has verified that Iran stuck to terms of the deal. The agency did not respond to a request for comment Wednesday. After the U.S. withdrew from the accord, it restored the crippling sanctions, exacerbating a severe economic crisis. The Iranian rial, which traded at 32,000 to \$1 at the time of the accord, traded Wednesday at 153,500.

That Iran chose to keep its excess uranium and heavy water first, rather than abandon the accord in its entirety, shows it still hopes to secure a deal. In years of negotiations over its nuclear program, Iran similarly has gone step-by-step in ramping its activities while holding talks. It also protects Rouhani, a relative moderate cleric within Iran's Shiite theocracy, from criticism by hard-liners who long maintained Iran gave up too much in the nuclear deal.

On the streets of Tehran, the mood was mixed as people are struggling to make ends meet as the Iranian currency collapses. □



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South Africa votes with corruption, jobs as big issues

By ANDREW MELDRUM

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP)

— South Africans voted Wednesday in presidential and parliamentary elections amid issues of corruption and unemployment. It is 25 years since the end of apartheid, but despite the demise of the harsh system of racial discrimination, the country remains divided by economic inequality.

It is 25 years since the end of apartheid, but despite the demise of the harsh system of racial discrimination, the country remains divided by economic inequality. The African National Congress, the party of Nelson Mandela that has been in power since 1994, is likely to win a majority but it will face a difficult challenge to do as well as five years ago.

The party has been tarnished by widespread corruption scandals and a national unemployment rate of 27% that has left many voters disillusioned.



Helped by an electoral commission official and under the watch of election observers, an elderly South African woman casts her vote in general elections Wednesday May 8, 2019 in Soweto, South Africa.

Associated Press

The ANC's leader, President Cyril Ramaphosa, has campaigned on promises to clean up his party, an

acknowledgment of the problems that forced his predecessor to resign last year.

Opposition leader Mmusi Maimane, who has campaigned vigorously against corruption, was one of the

first voters at the Dobsonville polling station in Soweto, Johannesburg's largest black township.

"Soweto represents to me the home of the struggle against apartheid and it is where we are now struggling against corruption and for a new government," Maimane said after casting his ballots.

Black support for Maimane's party, the Democratic Alliance, is limited because it is generally perceived to be run by whites.

In the working class suburb of Kempton Park, in eastern Johannesburg, Albert Lethole, 65, said it felt good to vote. He said he voted in the first all-race elections in 1994. "Things have been changing slowly but more needs to be done," said Lethole of changes since the end of apartheid. □

Japan's emperor reports to Shinto gods week after succession

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Emperor Naruhito performed a Shinto ritual at the palace Wednesday to report to imperial family gods the plans for the main ceremonies of his succession later this year.

Naruhito ascended to the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1, the day after his father Akihito abdicated.

Naruhito, wearing a head-dress and an ancient outfit dyed in the color of burnt orange, prayed at the Kashikodokoro shrine, followed by palace officials who carried the imperial

regalia of a sacred sword and jewel he inherited from his father. He later prayed at two other main palace shrines.

Enshrined at Kashikodokoro is the goddess Amaterasu, who is the mythological ancestress of Japan's emperors.

A main ascension ceremony is planned in October, when thousands of guests from in and outside Japan will be invited, followed by a religious harvest rite in November. The harvest rite is funded by the government, which some experts say could violate the constitutional separation of

state and religion.

The 59-year-old new emperor is a historian who studied at Oxford. He is Japan's first emperor born after World War II and the first who has studied overseas. Naruhito in a statement on his succession pledged to emulate his father in seeking peace and staying close to the people.

Empress Masako also prayed at the three shrines after Naruhito on Wednesday for the first time since 2002 before she largely receded from public appearances due to stress-induced mental conditions. □



In this photo released by Imperial Household Agency of Japan, Japan's Emperor Naruhito, left, walks for a ritual to report the dates of the Enthronement Ceremony and Great Thanksgiving Ceremony, to the imperial ancestors at the Imperial Sanctuaries, at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

Top Venezuelan judge blasts US for threats of more sanctions

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The head of Venezuela's top court on Wednesday rejected a U.S. threat to apply sanctions to all its judges, accusing the Trump administration of trying to manipulate the crisis-wracked nation's justice system and foment a coup.

Maikel Moreno, president of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice, pushed back on comments by Vice President Mike Pence, who said the U.S. would extend sanctions to all members of the Venezuelan court if they continue to be a "political tool" of President Nicolás Maduro.

"This unlawful, despicable and intolerable action violates the norms and principles of international law that govern relations between civilized nations," said Moreno, a political ally of the Maduro, speaking in a nationally broadcast TV appearance. Moreno already faces U.S. sanctions. The oil-rich nation is locked in a political struggle between socialist President Maduro and opposition



Venezuela's Supreme Court Justice Mikel Moreno, center, speaks sitting next to Judge Juan Mendoza, during a news conference in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

leader Juan Guaidó, who is backed by the United States and more than 50 other nations.

Guaidó took to the streets of at least two communities on Wednesday to keep up momentum among Venezuelans, meeting supporters in his hometown of La Guaira and surrounding communities.

More than 3 million Ven-

ezuelans have left their homeland in recent years amid skyrocketing inflation and shortages of food and medicine, and Pence and other Trump administration officials have warned that 2 million more are expected to flee by the end of the year if the nation's crisis continues.

In his speech a day earlier, Pence said the U.S. would

extend sanctions to all members of Venezuela's Supreme Court if they continue to prop up Maduro. The U.S. already has sanctions on about 150 officials and businesses in the country.

The U.S. lifted sanctions on a top Venezuelan general who broke ranks with Maduro, trying to help the opposition regain momentum

in the face of a government crackdown following last week's failed uprising.

Pence said the immediate lifting of financial sanctions for Gen. Manuel Figuera, who was Venezuela's spy chief, is intended to encourage others in the military to abandon their support for Maduro.

The move was a display of "good faith" designed to elicit "concrete and meaningful actions to restore democratic order" by dozens of other sanctioned Venezuelan insiders, the Treasury Department said in a statement.

Figuera was the sole regime insider to defy Maduro during the uprising, although the White House contends several others, including Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino, had been in talks for weeks with the opposition to oust Maduro but backed away from the plan at the last minute.

As the U.S. looked to lure the Venezuelan military, Maduro and his allies started going after opponents who supported the uprising. □

Human rights commission condemns Brazilian governor

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The head of the human rights commission of Rio de Janeiro's legislative assembly has blamed state Gov. Wilson Witzel for a surge in police killings, which totaled a record 434 victims in the first three months of the year.

Legislator Renata Souza said in a letter to the U.N. rapporteur on extrajudicial killings that Witzel had made statements "legitimizing" police violence in the state's slums and suburbs. Souza criticized Witzel's campaign promise to use helicopters as a platform for sharpshooters, who could target anyone carrying a weapon.

"Rio's biggest problem is that there is no public security policy," Souza said in a separate statement. "What we have, is a governor who thinks he is a vigilante, and says that the only security protocol applicable in his government is to aim and



In this March 12, 2019 file photo, Rio de Janeiro state Gov. Wilson Witzel attends a press conference regarding the arrest of two suspects in the killing of councilwoman Marielle Franco, at Civil Police headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

shoot in the head."

The letter came a few days after Witzel posted a video

of himself flying in a helicopter with police officers aiming rifles at residential areas below.

Souza and other critics say the shooting of suspects

from helicopters is illegal, and can only be justified in very specific cases, such as when victims are held hostages.

Witzel defended his security strategy Wednesday at an event attended by far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, a political ally.

To confront "the absolute degradation and unacceptable violence" in the state, there is no other option but to use "the maximum toughness in the fight against organized crime," Witzel said.

Souza's letter to the U.N. also cited recent cases in which the police and armed forces are accused of human rights abuses, such as the killing of a musician whose car was shot 80 times as he was driving to a baby shower with his family. Authorities are investigating the case and say the soldiers confused the car with that of criminals. □

University of Aruba provides insight into the increasing aging

ORANJESTAD — Aruba is aging at a very rapid pace. By 2030, 20% of our population will be older than 65. This is a doubling of the number of people in this age category since 2012 and it implies that then there are only 3 working people left for every person over 65. These developments have a major impact on our healthcare and pensions. To be better prepared for this, the University of Aruba (UA) is going to start a new program, called "Health, Aging and Pensions" (HAP). This program is very relevant for professionals and managers who work for the government, healthcare sector, human resources, trade unions, pensions and insurers.

The program, also known as the Minor, is (optional) part of the 4th year of the Faculty for Accounting, Finance and Marketing (FFM) of the UA. In this minor, managers, professionals and students will learn how different kinds of healthcare and pension systems work, both in Aruba as internationally. Challenges and opportunities for future policy issues and operational management are discussed. The minor will also focus on Healthy Aging, where the focus is on how health influences the process of aging and employment, as well as on the Personal Life Cycle Management, which relates to choices that people make during their lives with regard to education, work, living, family, savings and the mutual influences of these choices on the individual life cycle.

The minor starts in the week of August 26, 2019. The lectures take place on Thursday evening and Friday morning and afternoon. The total minor consists of 6 courses, spread over 2 blocks of 7 weeks. It is also possible to attend only one or more courses and receive a certificate for the completed courses. If you are interested, you are very welcome at the information meeting on Monday, May the 13th from 7 to 8pm in classroom 4 at the University of Aruba.

For more information please send email to hap@ua.aw. □



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ORANJESTAD — Since a while Aruba Today has a column called Aruba To Me. Readers are invited to send their favorite vacation picture along with a text starting with "Aruba to me is ...". The column grew in popularity making the editorial department happy seeing this interaction with our readers realized.

It is wonderful to share the moments of joy of our readers who are vacationing here, but we can also imagine that there are people home who stayed behind and who are being missed.

Aruba Today would like to give the opportunity to you as an appreciated reader to send a live greeting to your beloved ones that stayed behind. It can be your parent, child, sister, brother, neighbor

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from:

Greg & Jackie Berry from New Hampshire. They wrote:

Aruba to us is... Friendly Iguana's at Tropicana Resort.

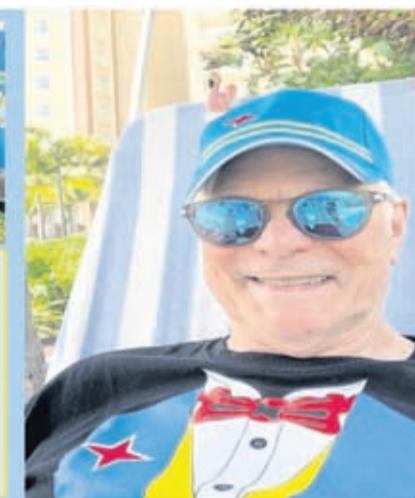
The lovely couple has been coming to the island since 1995 and consider Aruba their paradise. □



For today's newspaper we received a great picture from:

Donald Alhart. He wrote:
Aruba to me Is... Celebration of Friendship!!

Alhart celebrated the Flag Day together with good friends. They met a decade ago at the Marriott Surf Club and their friendship is being renewed every year since then at their home away from home.



who takes care of the cat, friends ... name it.

What Do You Do

The only thing you need to do is record a short (maximum 1 minute) video with a greeting to home from Aruba and send it to email news@arubatoday.com. Also please write your name and where you are from as well as how long you will be staying in Aruba. We will post your video on the Facebook page of Aruba Today!

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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

Marginal growth prospects for Aruban economy



ORANJESTAD — Today, the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) published the revised Economic Outlook for 2019. This publication also includes updated projections for 2018 to reflect the most recent developments and data.

The economy of Aruba is projected to grow in real terms by 0.9 percent in 2019 (nominal: 2.4 percent), according to the most recent estimation of the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA). The 2018 estimate of the real

gross domestic product (GDP) growth was raised by 1.4 percentage points to 0.9 percent, due to higher income from tourism and a smaller contraction of investment than previously anticipated.

Tourism service exports, the main driver of economic growth, are estimated to have grown by 2.7 percent (real terms) in 2018. This growth is led by a rise in tourist arrivals. The tourism outlook for 2019 is positive, with tourism service exports

growing by 2.6 percent (real terms). Actual investment activity in 2018 was higher than previously anticipated, but not sufficient to realize a gain. In 2019, investments are expected to expand significantly. Real private consumption is estimated to have posted a 1.7 percent decline in 2018. This is mainly due to the introduction of the new tax levy in July of 2018. For 2019, private consumption is likely to contract further. The year 2018 experienced a 12-month average infla-

tion rate of 3.6 percent. While electricity and water prices remained unchanged throughout the year, gasoline prices rose gradually. For 2019, the higher tax levy is expected to continue to exercise inflationary pressure.

Real GDP is projected to grow by an average annual rate of 1.1 percent in the medium term. This is based on information obtained on envisioned investment projects, e.g., related to the airport, and several

tourism-related projects. In the medium term, the value of the import of goods is expected to show a structural growth. This increase is induced by an anticipated higher world oil price, stronger consumption demand (from residents and tourists), as well as boosting investment volumes. Additionally, the government of Aruba is expected to make less use of foreign debt financing, thus causing a downward effect on the net foreign reserves of Aruba in the years to come. □

Applying at Aruba Airport Authority N.V. has to be done digitally

Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix
ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is proud to announce their most recent step into the future with the introduction of an online digital recruitment portal.

As of May 7, 2019 everyone interested in applying for a job at AAA must go on the website www.airportaruba.com.

On the website, click on "vacancies" in the "company info" section and enter the online digital recruitment portal. This new feature on the Aruba Airport website is very modern and easy to use. Applicants can now follow their application process digitally via the new digital recruitment portal.



AAA invites everyone to visit the website and to be pending of the digital recruitment portal as various new vacancies will be announced in the near future. Current vacancies include: Accounting Officer, Revenue & Billing Specialist, ID Administrator and Treasurer for the company. □

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PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitor. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honoree was the lovely Sandra Dandi, who has been visiting Aruba since 1991!

Sandra stated that she loves the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, the nice sandy beaches, its safety, the delicious variety of foods and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of Eagle Aruba Resort and Casino presented the certificate to the honoree, and also handed over some presents and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination and as her home away from home. □





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Feeling Sick during vacation?

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PALM BEACH — Feeling sick is a miserable thing during vacation. This is the time of the year you should enjoy and relax, so staying in a hotel room bed with a sunstroke, skin allergy, ear infection or intestinal problems can be a bummer. The best thing to do is to recover as soon as possible, and Dr. Lili Beke of the Aruba Walk-in Clinic, together with Palm Beach Service Pharmacy are a one-stop-shopping solution.

A Walk-In Clinic to Walk To

First of all she is calm, kind and understanding. Personal touch is her trade mark and with more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor she knows what's going on. Doctor Beke is located in Palm Beach, at the door steps of the hotel area and her clinic is appropriately named the Aruba Walk-In Clinic. "I'd like to put myself in the shoes of the visitor. Being in a strange place, sometimes far from family or even alone and feeling sick. You can feel lost and disorientated. I can understand that and try to give them comprehension and a welcome feeling while examining them. So they leave with a smile, even if they feel a bit sick." The doctor speaks seven languages: English, Dutch, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Papiamento, meaning she can attend to almost any tourist from all over the world. "You can come in without an appointment and we have an emergency number that works 24/7, if necessary I will visit the patient where he/she is staying. We attend patients every day!" Her philosophy is as follows: As long as you enjoy what you are doing and like to help people, this profession is very rewarding." It sounds like the perfect place to heal.



Pharmacy & Drug Store with a Recipe for Success

Two quality parties that work together can only be a good thing. After you pick up your prescription at Dr. Beke's practice, you can go to the Pharmacy, right next door. The collaboration between these two results in a quick, efficient and quality service. It's just what you need when you feel the only thing you want is healing. Lennert van der Poel, general manager of the Pharmacy, which is part of a Group of 5 pharmacies, points out that convenience is not their only unique asset. "We carry a wide variety of medicines from the US, but most of the medicines come from the EU. The prices in the EU are considerably lower than in the U.S." All medicine are European registered with the same standard as U.S. products. "The law in the States allows visitors to get medicines here for the use of six months and many repeated guests or time share owners do so. This saves them a lot of money. It is however mandatory to have a prescription from a local doctor", says van der Poel. Most common medicines requested by visitors are antibiotic, pain killers and anti-allergy medications.

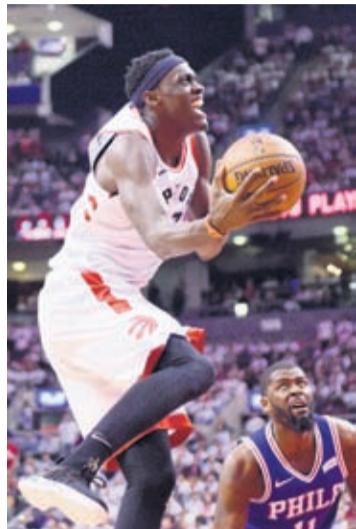
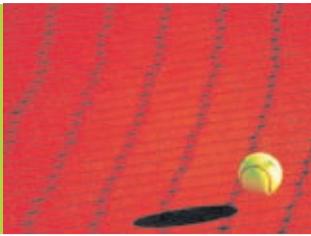
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SPORTS



Toronto Raptors forward Pascal Siakam (43) jumps for the basket to score against the Philadelphia 76ers during the second half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Toronto.

Associated Press

Raptors rout 76ers 125-89 to win Game 5

TORONTO (AP) — The Toronto Raptors came up with a new load management plan for Kawhi Leonard. It was to make sure their star forward didn't have to shoulder the entire offensive burden.

Leonard had 21 points and 13 rebounds, Pascal Siakam scored 25 points and the Raptors used a balanced attack and a huge second quarter to rout the Philadelphia 76ers 125-89 Tuesday night and take a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference semi-final series.

Toronto can advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second time in four seasons with a victory in Game 6 at Philadelphia on Thursday night. The Raptors lost in six games to Cleveland in the East finals in 2016.

Continued on Page 22

No-no!



Fiers of the Oakland A's pitches no-hitter, beats Reds 2-0

Oakland Athletics' Mike Fiers prepares to pitch against the Cincinnati Reds in the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press
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Rafael Nadal, from Spain, returns the ball to Felix Auger-Aliassime, from Canada, during the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

Nadal overcomes stomach virus to advance in Madrid Open

By TALES AZZONI

MADRID (AP) — Rafael Nadal was concerned going into his first match at the Madrid Open.

He lost practice time ahead of the tournament because of a stomach virus and didn't know exactly how his body would react when he stepped onto the "Magic Box" center court on Wednesday.

But despite the lack of preparation and the physical toll of the illness, Nadal cruised to a 6-3, 6-3 win over Canadian teenager Felix Auger-Aliassime to reach the third round in the Spanish capital.

Playing only a few days after falling ill, Nadal lost only four points on his serve in the first set and broke Auger-Aliassime three times in the second.

"I've had this stomach virus for a few days so this was a very important match for me," the second-ranked Spaniard said. "I've been improving but obviously the body remains a bit debilitated for a while. I'm very happy with the victory. It was very important."

Nadal is trying to rebound from consecutive eliminations in the semifinals of both Monte Carlo and Barcelona, which marked his worst start to the clay-court season in four years.

"The important thing is to win, you know, especially given what's happened in the last three days," he said. "In general, it's a day to be very satisfied, very happy." A five-time champion in Madrid, Nadal will next face American Frances Tiafoe, who defeated Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. "He is playing really well," Nadal said of Tiafoe. "He has that drive and energy and it will be a good test for me and an opportunity for me to play a tough match and to keep improving."

The 18-year-old Auger-Aliassime is having his breakthrough season on tour, having moved to 30th in the rankings after reaching the final in Rio and the semifinals in Miami.

He converted on his only break opportunity of the match late in the second set, but Nadal broke right back to close out the match. The 17-time Grand Slam champion converted four of his 10 break opportunities, with the last one coming on his sixth-match point of the final game.

The last match of the day was also the last ever on tour for David Ferrer, whose career came to an end with a 6-4, 6-1 loss to defending champion Alexander Zverev. The 37-year-old Spaniard had said before

the tournament he wasn't fit enough to keep competing at a high level.

Ferrer finished his 20-year career with 27 singles titles, fifth-best among active players behind the top four of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray. Ferrer had 733 wins in 1,111 matches, fourth-best among active players.

"I couldn't keep playing at the level that I wanted, but I'm very happy and very proud of my career," Ferrer said.

Earlier, Juan Martin Del Potro squandered a match point in a 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 loss to Laslo Djere in his second tournament since injuring his knee in October. Del Potro converted only two of his 11 break opportunities, failing to capitalize on the match point at 5-4 in the final set. The Argentine had last played in Delray Beach in February, losing in the quarterfinals.

Stan Wawrinka defeated Guido Pella 6-3, 6-4 and will face Kei Nishikori, who got past Bolivian qualifier Hugo Dellien 7-5, 7-5.

Fabio Fognini beat John Millman 6-2, 6-2, while Gael Monfils edged Marton Fucsovics 1-6, 6-4, 6-2. Estoril Open champion Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated Adrian Mannarino 6-2, 7-5. □



Kentucky Derby entrant Improbable runs during a workout at Churchill Downs Thursday, May 2, 2019, in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

Improbable gets Mike Smith aboard for possible Preakness run

BALTIMORE (AP) — Improbable will have Triple Crown-winning jockey Mike Smith aboard if the colt runs in the Preakness on May 18. Trainer Bob Baffert said Wednesday that he was making the switch from Irad Ortiz Jr. because "Mike and I have a little luck together."

Baffert and Smith teamed with Justify to win the Triple Crown last year.

Ortiz rode Improbable to a fifth-place finish in the Kentucky Derby on Saturday and the colt was moved up to fourth following Maximum Security's disqualification for interference.

Baffert said Improbable will train Monday at Churchill Downs, and then he will make a final decision on the colt's status for the Preakness, a race the trainer has won seven times. If Improbable joins the field for the middle leg of the Triple Crown, he would arrive in Baltimore three days ahead of the race.

The rest of the maximum 14-horse field for the Preakness has begun taking shape. Neither Maximum Security nor Derby winner

Country House will run it. War of Will, squeezed when Maximum Security drifted out at the Derby as the leaders were coming out of the final turn, was back training Wednesday. The colt had his right front shoe removed and his foot soaked in Epsom salts after experiencing discomfort, trainer Mark Casse said.

War of Will finished eighth — 4½ lengths behind the first-place finisher — and was moved up to seventh via the DQ.

Trainer Mike Trombetta said he will decide by Friday whether Win Win Win runs in the 1 3/16-mile race. The colt ended up ninth in the Derby and emerged unscathed from the race, which was run on a sloppy track for the second straight year.

Also under consideration is Bodexpress, moved up to 13th after finishing 14th in the Derby. The colt is 0 for 6 in his career.

Among fresh prospects are Bourbon War, who would be ridden by Ortiz, Alwaysmining, AnotherTwistafate, Laughing Fox, Owendale and Signalman. □

Fiers throws 2nd career no-hitter as A's blank Reds 2-0

By The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Mike Fiers of the Oakland Athletics pitched his second career no-hitter by shutting down the Cincinnati Reds with help from two spectacular defensive plays in a 2-0 victory Tuesday night.

Fiers (3-3) followed up his 2015 gem against the Dodgers with a 131-pitch masterpiece to become the 35th pitcher with multiple no-hitters in his career. He walked two, struck out six and ended it by fanning Eugenio Suarez with a big curveball.

The A's poured out of the dugout to mob Fiers in celebration after the final out in front of a few thousand fans remaining — the game started more than 1 1/2 hours later because of a light malfunction at the Coliseum. Fiers tipped his hat to the crowd and raised his arms in triumph as he walked off.

This one didn't come without tense moments as Fiers was bailed out by back-to-back great defensive plays in the sixth inning. Second baseman Jurickson Profar made a diving catch on Kyle Farmer's popup into short right field for the second out, prompting Fiers to throw up his arms in celebration.

Joey Votto followed that with a drive to center field, but Ramon Laureano leaped at the fence to pull the ball back and rob the Reds star of a home run.

ANGELS 5, TIGERS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Shohei Ohtani went 0 for 4 with an RBI groundout and walked once in his season debut as the Angels beat the Tigers. The Angels activated the AL Rookie of the Year from the injured list and looking very eager to make an impact, Ohtani swung so hard at times that his helmet flew off his head.

The 24-year-old two-way player isn't expected to pitch this year as he recovers from Tommy John surgery in October. But the Angels, who are under .500, are hoping Ohtani can provide a boost as their designated hitter.



Oakland Athletics' Mike Fiers, center, celebrates with Matt Olson (28) Chad Pinder (18) and Matt Chapman (26) after pitching a no-hitter against the Cincinnati Reds at the end of a baseball game Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Griffin Canning (1-0) earned the win in his second career start, giving up two runs and four hits over 5 1/3 innings while striking out seven. Hansel Robles pitched the ninth for his third save in as many chances.

Daniel Norris (1-1) took the loss.

YANKEES 5, MARINERS 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Cameron Maybin narrowly beat right fielder Jay Bruce's throw home on DJ LeMahieu's game-ending, ninth-inning single, capping New York's three-run rally.

Gio Urshela hit a tying, two-run off Anthony Swarzak (2-2) to begin the late comeback.

Joe Harvey (1-0) pitched out of a jam in the ninth, getting his first big league win.

The Yankees have won 13 of 17. Seattle lost for the eighth time in nine games, dropping to .500 (19-19) after opening at 13-2.

RED SOX 8, ORIOLES 5

BALTIMORE (AP) — Mitch Moreland hit a three-run homer and J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts also connected for Boston.

The Red Sox won for the

seventh time in nine games. Martinez hit a two-run drive in the first inning, Bogaerts delivered a solo shot in the fourth and Moreland's team-leading 10th home run, off Baltimore rookie Branden Kline (1-1), put Boston ahead 6-3 in the fifth.

Marcus Walden (5-0) won in relief and Matt Barnes got his third save.

ROYALS 12, ROYALS 2

HOUSTON (AP) — Whit Merrifield and Ryan O'Hearn each hit a grand slam to lead Kansas City. It was the first time the Royals had two grand slams in a game since 2004.

Danny Duffy (1-1) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings for his first win this season in his third start after missing the early part of the season with a shoulder injury.

Merrifield, who had four hits and finished a double shy of the cycle, tied a career high with five RBIs. Jorge Soler added a solo homer. Collin McHugh (3-4) has given up 25 runs in his past four starts, all Houston losses.

INDIANS 2, WHITE SOX 0

CLEVELAND (AP) — Lucas

Giolito carried a shutout into the eighth inning and James McCann stayed with hot with an RBI single for Chicago.

Giolito (3-1) didn't have to work hard against Cleveland, which came in batting an AL-low .213 — 13 points lower than the next closest team.

The Indians wasted a strong outing by starter Jefry Rodriguez (0-2). Cleveland has been shut out twice in three games and scored just one run in the past 27 innings.

Giolito, who allowed just three hits, retired the lead-off hitter to start what became an eventful eighth. Alex Colomé got his seventh save.

RAYS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Brandon Lowe homered on the first pitch in the bottom of the first, opener Ryne Stanek and five other relievers combined on a seven-hitter and Tampa Bay Rays moved to a season-high 11 games over .500.

After Stanek struck out four in two innings, winner Jalen Beeks (2-0) gave up one run and three hits in 3 1/3

innings.

Rookie Taylor Clarke (0-1) allowed two runs and seven hits over six innings in his first start and second appearance for the Diamondbacks.

in his major league debut on April 20.

Arizona's Wilmer Flores and Carson Kelly both hit solo homers in the ninth off Adam Kolarek.

TWINS 3, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP) — José Berrios allowed four hits in seven innings, Mitch Garver homered and Minnesota shut out Toronto for the second straight night.

Berrios (6-1) won a career-best fifth consecutive start as the AL Central-leading Twins won for the eighth time in 11 games.

Trevor Hildenberger and Trevor May worked the eighth, and Taylor Rogers pitched the ninth to complete the six-hitter and earn his fourth save.

Garver shook off a cut on the neck from a broken bat and went 3 for 3. His two-run homer in the sixth off Aaron Sanchez (3-3) was his seventh this season, tying a career high. □



Chicago Cubs' Kris Bryant watches his walk-off, three-run home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game to defeat the Miami Marlins 5-2, Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Kris Bryant hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting the Chicago Cubs over Miami. With runners on the corners, Bryant drove a 1-2 pitch from Adam Conley (1-4) through a strong wind and into the bleachers in left-center for his third career game-ending homer.

Albert Almora Jr. also connected as the Cubs won for the eighth time in nine games. Steve Cishek (1-1) worked a scoreless ninth for the victory.

PHILLIES 11, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Bryce Harper hit a grand slam, his first with the Phillies, and Rhys Hoskins added four hits, including a homer, to spark Philadelphia.

Harper's homer capped a six-run second inning. Philadelphia took advantage of

two errors and two walks as all six runs were unearned. Aaron Nola (3-0) allowed three hits in six innings, giving up one run. St. Louis starter Dakota Hudson (2-3) gave up eight runs in five innings.

METS 7, PADRES 6

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rookie Pete Alonso got his revenge against San Diego by hitting a 449-foot, two-run home run with no outs in the ninth inning to lift the Mets to a victory over the Padres.

Alonso celebrated his monster homer with a big bat flip. The shot, his 11th, came a night after Alonso struck out twice against Padres rookie Chris Paddack, who said he was "coming for" the Mets first baseman because he had won the NL's Player of the Month Award for March and April.

Alonso finished with three

hits and four RBIs.

Alonso's homer gave the Mets a 7-5 lead. San Diego rallied for one run against Edwin Diaz in the bottom of the inning before he got Hunter Renfroe to ground out with the bases loaded to earn his ninth save.

Seth Lugo (3-0) pitched two innings for the win.

BREWERS 6, NATIONALS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Lorenzo Cain's three-run double with two outs in the seventh inning broke a scoreless tie and Milwaukee won its fifth in a row.

Washington star Anthony Rendon returned to the lineup after missing 14 games because of a bruised left elbow caused when he was hit by a pitch. His first time up, he was plunked in the upper ribcage.

With two on and two outs in the seventh, Rendon was called out on strikes and

Bryant's 3-run HR gives Cubs 5-2 win over Marlins

immediately turned to argue with plate umpire CB Bucknor. Rendon pointed with his bat to a spot in the dirt off the plate before being ejected.

Houser, making his second spot start of the season, pitched two innings before giving way to Freddy Peralta (2-1), who didn't allow a run over five innings. Stephen Strasburg (3-2) struck out 11 before the Brewers struck for six runs in the seventh.

GIANTS 14, ROCKIES 4

DENVER (AP) — Mac Williamson wasted no time after being promoted from Triple-A Sacramento, homering and driving in four runs to help San Francisco beat Colorado.

It was just the Giants' third win in the team's last 21 games at Coors Field.

Evan Longoria and Kevin Pillar also homered in support of Madison Bumgarner (2-4), who went six innings and allowed three runs on eight hits.

Charlie Blackmon homered to lead off Colorado's first inning. Chris Iannetta also homered for Colorado and Ian Desmond tripled twice.

Williamson's return to the Giants culminated an arduous, yearlong comeback that included being designated for assignment by the Giants after a disappointing showing in spring training. He had begun last season as the Giants' left fielder but in late April tripped over a bullpen mound while going for a foul ball and crashed head first into the padded railing. Lingering concussion symptoms forced him to miss much of the rest of the season.

Antonio Senzatela (2-2) allowed seven runs in 4 2/3 innings. In six previous starts against the Giants, he had gone 5-0 with a 3.16 ERA.

PIRATES 5, RANGERS 4

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gregory Polanco hit his first home run in eight months, and spot starter Steven Brault and six relievers did just enough to help Pittsburgh edge Texas.

Polanco sent a two-run

shot to the first row of seats in right-center off Adrian Sampson (0-2) in the fifth, his first since dislocating his left shoulder in an awkward slide last September. Melky Cabrera added a pinch-hit two-run double off Sampson as the Pirates won for the fifth time in six games.

Brault, filling in for injured Jameson Taillon, gave up two runs in four innings in his first start since April 27, 2018. Michael Feliz (2-0) pitched a scoreless fifth. Felipe Vázquez worked a perfect ninth for his 10th save.

Hunter Pence drove in all four runs for Texas, doubling twice and adding his fourth home run.

DODGERS 9, BRAVES 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hyun-Jin Ryu tossed a four-hit shutout, Justin Turner homered three times and Los Angeles routed Atlanta for its ninth straight win at home.

Tyler Flowers singled to left leading off the sixth for Ryu's first baserunner of the game. Former Dodger Charlie Culberson grounded into a double play that quickly cleared the base paths.

Turner's three homers and six RBIs were career highs. His last blast came in the eighth, a three-run shot into the left field pavilion that extended the lead to 9-0. He went 4 for 5 with a strikeout and scored three runs. Ryu (4-1) struck out five and walked none in his second career complete game. His first came on May 28, 2013, at home against the Angels.

The Dodgers have homered in 16 of 18 at Chavez Ravine, smashing 33 out of the park.

Braves starter Max Fried (4-2) left the game after getting hit in the left hand by a comebacker in the second. The team said X-rays were negative and Fried was day-to-day with a concussion on his hand.

Fried gave up four runs and four hits in one-plus innings, struck out one and walked one.

He had two wild pitches in the first. □

Maroon's OT goal lifts Blues past Stars in Game 7

BY STEVE OVERBEY

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Pat Maroon always imagined becoming a hometown hero. The 31-year-old St. Louis native got to live out that fantasy Tuesday night.

Maroon scored 5:50 into the second overtime, Jordan Binnington made 29 saves and the St. Louis Blues outlasted the Dallas Stars 2-1 in Game 7 of their Western Conference semifinal playoff series.

St. Louis will face the winner of the San Jose-Colorado series in the conference final.

Maroon slammed in a loose puck after Robert Thomas hit the goal post on a rush down the right wing. The puck then bounced off Dallas goalie Ben Bishop and dropped in the crease. It was the second game-winning goal of the series for Maroon, who savored the moment in front of dozens of family and friends.

"As a kid, playing in a basement, on the street, you always think about doing this," Maroon said. "It's unreal. It means the world."

Maroon deflected credit for the tally to Thomas, whose rush helped create the winner.

"I saw an opening and I shot it," Thomas said. "He was there to bang it in."

Maroon struggled at times during the regular season, going 23 games without a goal. But he has scored three goals in the postseason.

"I got to my game and I got my confidence back where it needs to be," Maroon said. "It's been a heck of a journey."

St. Louis captain Alex Pietrangelo felt Maroon deserved a little puck luck.

"He's been working so hard," Pietrangelo said. "What a cool moment for him."

Binnington, a Calder Trophy finalist, improved to 8-5 in postseason play. He stopped Radek Faksa on a breakaway in the opening period and also made some key stops in the second extra period.

"It was fun for the first three or four periods," Binnington said. "Then I started to get



St. Louis Blues' Pat Maroon (7) scores the game-winning goal past Dallas Stars goaltender Ben Bishop, as Miro Heiskanen (4) and John Klingberg (3) help defend during the second overtime in Game 7 of an NHL second-round hockey playoff series Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in St. Louis. The Blues won 2-1 to win the series.

Associated Press

a little tired. We fought until the end. We found a way. It's been working for us."

Vince Dunn also scored for St. Louis.

"It was a pretty good effort from the get-go, they battled and stayed in it," St. Louis interim coach Craig Berube said. "Their goalie had a great game, but our guys never quit and stayed with it."

Bishop made 52 saves and Mats Zuccarello scored for Dallas, which dropped to 5-8 in Game 7s in franchise history.

It marked the first time in NHL history that three playoff series were decided in overtime in Game 7 in the same year. San Jose eliminated Vegas and Carolina beat Washington in the first round.

St. Louis, which improved to 9-8 in Game 7s, outshot Dallas 54-30, including 41-16 in regulation. But Bishop was terrific against his first NHL team, keeping the Stars in

the game with a handful of big-time stops in regulation and the overtimes.

The Blues jumped in front when Dunn converted a shot from the point 13:30 into the first period. It was his first career playoff goal.

Zuccarello then jumped on a fortunate deflection for Dallas, tying it at 1 at 15:55. A clearing attempt by St. Louis forward David Perron hit referee Marc Joannette and bounced into the slot. Binnington was looking in the other direction and never saw Zuccarello's shot. Bishop came into the contest with two shutouts in his only two Game 7 appearances, both with the Tampa Bay Lightning.

He made several key saves during a 34-minute stretch when the Blues outshot Dallas 27-2 from the start of the second period.

But he was unable to stop what Maroon called, a "greasy goal."

"I think it went off the post and hit me in the back of the head," Bishop said. "It just laid there."

Bishop, a Vezina Trophy finalist, made 46 successive saves before Maroon's tally. "The first word that comes is frustrated," Bishop said. "It's tough to end your season in an overtime game."

NOTES: It was the 176th Game 7 in NHL history. ...

Dallas killed off 35 of 37 penalties in the postseason, including all 15 in the first round against Nashville. ... Thomas became the first teenager (19 years, 309 days) to record a point in a Game 7 for the Blues when he assisted on Dunn's goal. ... Actor Jon Hamm, a St. Louis native, was in attendance. It was the fourth double overtime game already this postseason. ... Dallas D Esa Lindell played a game-high 37:45.

UP NEXT

St. Louis plays either San Jose or Colorado in the Western Conference final, which will be decided with Game 7 on Wednesday. □

Millsap, Jokic spark Nuggets' 124-98 blowout of Blazers

By ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Paul Millsap is showing the young'uns how it's done.

Millsap scored 19 of his 24 points in the first half Tuesday night, sparking Denver's 124-98 blowout of the Portland Trail Blazers that put the Nuggets on the verge of their first trip to the Western Conference finals in a decade.

The 34-year-old forward with nearly 100 games of playoff experience has injected some savvy into a series dominated by youth and emerging stars.

"It's not his first time, you know? He's been here before," Jamal Murray said. "He's showing everybody the ropes. ... He does all the little things that can help us win games and sets the tone for us."

Millsap is averaging 19 points and 9.6 boards in the best-of-seven series that the Nuggets lead 3-2 with Game 6 coming up Thursday night in Portland.

Gary Harris called Millsap



Denver Nuggets forward Paul Millsap, left, is defended by Portland Trail Blazers forward Zach Collins during the second half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Denver. The Nuggets won 124-98.

Associated Press

"that calming factor" for a team making its first playoff appearance in six seasons. "He's been huge for us this series. He's been bringing it offensively, defensively and he helped us get off to a great start today."

After Millsap got the Nuggets going with a dozen first-quarter points, Nikola Jokic took over from there,

scoring 25 points and pulling down 19 rebounds, tying a team NBA playoff high. Murray added 18 points to go with nine assists and zero turnovers.

Damian Lillard, who led Portland with 22 points, said it's exhausting facing the waves of young sharpshooters the Nuggets send at you, starting with the ful-

crum of Jokic and Murray running the pick-and-roll.

"And then when all else fails, you've got to guard Millsap," Lillard lamented. "He's a handful for guys to guard because he's in the paint, he's making face-up jumpers, he's making 3s. In transition, you've got to find him, and then he's a monster on the glass."

Leaning on Millsap's experience and well-rounded game, he said, "is just something they can always go to, something they can always count on. So, it's tough to deal with."

Millsap helped the Nuggets turn in the first lopsided game of a series that was so evenly matched coming in that Denver held a cumulative scoring advantage of 464-462 and both teams had made the same number of free throws and 3-pointers.

The Nuggets never trailed and stretched a six-point lead after one quarter to 18 at the half and 28 heading into the fourth quarter. They led by as many as 31

before a parade of backups gave the starters some much-needed breathers.

Coming off a resounding Game 4 win that followed that epic quadruple-overtime loss, the Nuggets were focused and efficient just as coach Mike Malone promised when he said Denver wouldn't dare let up and exhale at home after reclaiming the home-court advantage.

Whatever adjustments Blazers coach Terry Stotts tried to make at the half didn't take as the Nuggets outscored Portland 28-18 in the third quarter, and before long, the Blazers were thinking more about salvaging Game 6 and hoping to regroup for a return trip to Denver in hopes of a different outcome.

"We've got two must-wins ahead of us," Stotts said.

CAUTION AHEAD

Malone said he hopes his team learned from its Game 6 loss at San Antonio last series and doesn't have a similar letdown in Portland. □



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) dunks as Philadelphia 76ers forward James Ennis III (11), forward Tobias Harris (33) and center Joel Embiid (21) watch during the first half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Toronto.

Associated Press

RAPTOR-76ERS

Continued from Page 17

If the 76ers can extend the series to a seventh game, it would be played in Toronto on Sunday night.

Leonard, who had scored 33 or more points in each of the first four games of the series, shot 7 for 16 from the field and 7 for 8 at the line before checking out with 7:22 to play and Toronto up 103-73. He had four assists

and two steals.

"Tonight was one of those games where we let him rest a little bit, which is important," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "He had a big double-double, but he didn't have to do everything offensively."

Leonard scored 39 points in Toronto's Game 4 win on Sunday.

Lowry scored 19 points, while Danny Green shot

5 for 7 from 3-point range and finished with 17 points. Marc Gasol scored 11 points and Serge Ibaka had 10. All five Toronto starters scored in double digits.

"Kawhi still had a great game and the surrounding cast contributed," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. The 36-point margin was the largest in Toronto's postseason history, and marked Philadelphia's worst playoff defeat since a 40-point loss to Boston in Game 1 of the 1982 Eastern Conference finals.

"The spirit, I thought, went away a little bit quicker than I'd wished," Brown said.

Up by one after the first, the Raptors outscored the 76ers 37-17 in the second to take a 21-point lead, 64-43, at halftime.

"The second period is where it got away from us," Brown said. "I give Toronto credit, we didn't have the answers for a few of their players and it snowballed."

Ahead 92-70 at the start of the fourth, Toronto extended its lead to a game-

high 40 points on a dunk by Normal Powell with 2:24 remaining.

The Raptors shot 16 for 40 from 3-point range, setting a franchise record for 3-pointers in a postseason game. They hadn't made more than 10 in the four previous games this series. "The 3-point shot was punishing tonight," Brown said. Jimmy Butler scored 22 points and Tobias Harris had 15 for the 76ers, who have lost two straight after winning the previous two.

Joel Embiid scored 13 points and had eight turnovers. Embiid started despite missing the morning shoot-around because of flu-like symptoms.

"Offensively there was a rhythm to his game that was clearly out of sync," Brown said. "He's been in bed for two days."

Embiid also battled illness in Games 2 and 4.

"I know I've got to do a better job for us to win," Embiid said.

Sixers guard Ben Simmons shot 3 for 5 and finished with seven points, seven re-

bounds, and five turnovers.

Siakam scored nine points in the first and Lowry had eight as Toronto led 27-26 after one. Leonard had seven rebounds and five points in the first.

Ibaka needed three stitches to close a cut on his forehead after he was inadvertently elbowed by Leonard in the opening quarter. Ibaka returned to start the second and, despite a visible bump on his head, soon scored his first points by blowing past Embiid for a dunk.

Green scored nine points in the second, making three of Toronto's four 3-pointers. Toronto shot 12 for 21 in the second while Philadelphia shot 6 for 20.

Leonard, who missed six of his first eight shots, punctuated Toronto's decisive second quarter with a powerful one-handed slam, driving into the paint from near center court and splitting a pair of defenders to throw it down with 2.6 seconds left.

"That was pretty impressive," Siakam said. "Plays like that always give us energy." □

Pegula relinquishes control of NWHL Buffalo team

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Kim Pegula's desire to grow women's professional hockey will no longer involve a relationship with North America's remaining professional league.

The owner of the Buffalo Beauts announced Wednesday she's relinquishing control of the team in a move that could further jeopardize the future of the National Women's Hockey League as it struggles to keep its five franchises afloat and without the support of the world's top players.

"Our main goal has always been fostering the growth of women's hockey across all ages," Pegula said in a statement. "We thank our Beauts players, staff, and fans for their support this past season. We will continue to look for ways to successfully grow the women's game."

Pegula did not cite reasons behind her decision, but it comes on the heels of the league still dealing with the fallout from last week's decision made by more than 200 players pledging not to play professionally in North



In this Dec. 23, 2018, file photo, Buffalo Bills co-owner Kim Pegula stands on the field as the team warms up before an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

America next season.

The group of players featured a vast majority of the Beauts roster, including U.S. national team defenseman Emily Pfalzer and Canadian national team goalie Shannon Szabados.

Pegula informed NWHL Commissioner Dani Rylan of her decision last week, and the terms of the team's handover back to the

league were determined during a conference call Tuesday, two people with direct knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press. The people spoke to The AP on the condition of anonymity because the discussions were private.

The NWHL will re-assume control of the franchise, but will have to renegotiate

facility fees if the league intends to continue playing at the Pegula-owned HarborCenter. The league also will have to resume paying players' salaries and team travel costs, which will put an estimated \$200,000 dent in the NWHL's budget. Rylan thanked Pegula Sports for running the Beauts, before the league issued a separate state-

ment saying the NWHL was pleased to regain operating control.

"The fans of Western New York are among the most dedicated in the world, and we have had four exceptional seasons of winning hockey and large crowds in Buffalo," the league said.

Questions remain over how easily the NWHL can move forward after losing one of its most influential backers. Pegula and her husband Terry also own the NHL's Sabres and NFL's Bills, and became the NWHL's first private owners upon purchasing the Beauts in December 2017.

Their departure comes at a time the NWHL was raising the possibility of expanding into Toronto and Montreal after the Canadian Women's Hockey League shut down as of May 1, citing financial woes.

The CWHL's demise along with questions regarding the NWHL's long-term viability led to the players' pledge in a bid to start over and establish a single economically sustainable professional league. □

Boxing chief criticizes IOC comments on Olympic competition

By STEVE MOORE
Associated Press

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — The head of the international boxing federation has criticized IOC president Thomas Bach's comments that Olympic officials could organize the Tokyo 2020 boxing tournament if the sport's federation can't get its affairs in order.

Bach said last weekend that the IOC wants the sport at next year's Tokyo Games and is prepared to organize both the qualification and the competition if boxing's troubled international governing body, the AIBA, loses its Olympic status over leadership and financial problems.

"Organizing a sports event

is also not rocket science," Bach told a meeting in Sydney on Saturday. "So I guess we will be able to manage it in the end. It's a very universal sport, so we want to have boxing on the program. If the case arises ... we would have to make an effort then to have such a tournament." AIBA executive director Tom Virgets said Bach's comments belittled the job of international sports federations.

"We're very concerned about it," Virgets said in an interview with SNTV on Wednesday. "We have concerns about it mostly for the athletes and for the programs.

"We're in the best position to ensure a good quality games. I think Mr. Bach's

statement ... is disappointing because I think we play a much more important role."

Virgets said the AIBA had the institutional knowledge and "we understand the politics and all the behind the scenes things that take place."

"We've spent a year and a half reforming and I think we're in the best position because we have made all these corrective actions."

Relations between the IOC and AIBA have been tense since Uzbekistan businessman Gafur Rakhimov was elected AIBA president in November, beating Kazakh candidate Serik Konakbayev.

The U.S. Treasury Department has alleged Rakhimov has links to organized crime and placed him under sanctions. Rakhimov denies the allegations.



International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, top left, speaks at the Australian Olympic Committee annual general meeting in Sydney, Australia, Saturday, May 4, 2019.

Associated Press

mov has links to organized crime and placed him under sanctions. Rakhimov denies the allegations.

AIBA risks being derecognized next month after an IOC inquiry panel reports. An IOC board meeting on May 22 will receive the inquiry report and can decide on what to do about the Tokyo tournament. The

June 24-26 can then consider derecognizing the AIBA.

Until then, AIBA is banned from contacting 2020 Tokyo Olympic organizers.

Virgets said he hopes an agreement can be reached between his organization and the IOC ahead of next year's games. □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

The word thyroid comes from the Greek "thura" which means "door," which is what the thyroid looks like. Your thyroid gland is the largest endocrine gland and is situated in the front of the neck. Your thyroid gland secretes iodine-rich hormones thyroxin and triiodothyronine which regulate your metabolism rate; but its effects are felt all over the body.

Thyroid glands that are not functioning optimally produce a myriad of symptoms. Many people experience unexplained cold hands and feet, low body temperature, sensitivity to cold, a feeling of always being chilled, headaches, insomnia, dry skin and hair, puffy eyes, hair loss, brittle nails, joint aches, constipation, mental dullness, fatigue, frequent infections, PMS symptoms, hoarse voice, ringing in the ears, dizziness, depression, fluid retention, anxiety and panic attacks, allergies, asthma, acne, skin hives, loss of libido, and weight gain, which is sometimes uncontrollable. In fact, an insufficiently nourished thyroid might be a major cause of weight problems, especially among women, in the West today.

Research indicates that up to 10 percent of Westerners have a thyroid problem that has most likely gone unrecognized. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms above your doc-

tor could send you to check your thyroid function through a blood test. Unfortunately, the test results may not be accurate. This is because test "averages" do not show how all of us are unique. Your individual thyroid hormone levels are not like anyone else's.

Thyroid tests will not give you an accurate indication of your ideal thyroid hormone level, because they are missing a critical piece of information which is your peak thyroid level when you were young and healthy. Should your thyroid test results indicate that you are in the "normal" range...say 5.5...but when you were younger you would have tested at a 9, then indeed, your thyroid is quite under active for you. At 5.5 you may feel very tired yet your doctor will tell you that your test results are "normal." You can only truly compare you with you, and not a range of others. It would be ideal if we were tested when we were in our late teens and twenties and our peak levels were recorded at the topmost physical time in our life. Then, as we age, we could test ourselves again to ensure that our hormone levels remain at this peak level.

The second reason that the tests are often inaccurate is because they only show what your thyroid hormone levels are on the day of testing. Your thyroid is a "tricky" organ to both diagnose and treat since its hormone levels fluctuate all the time. What you eat each day has a tremendous and immediate impact on it, and how much hormone it secretes.

A third reason for their inaccuracy is that the tests do not indicate if your thyroid hormone is actually entering your cells. Your thyroid may be manufacturing plenty of hormone but your cells can become resistant to the hormone and not able to utilize it. This condition is called Wilson's Syndrome. If you have low body temperature and some of the symptoms listed above you could have this condition.

In our clinic we see a lot of hypo or low func-

tioning thyroids. The first solution is to put our patients on their metabolic or blood type food list. Because of today's diet, people will likely never experience outstanding thyroid health, unless they are encouraged to change their eating habits.

Your thyroid can be nourished better with a diet that includes the good fats (olive oil, pumpkin-seed oil, real, unsalted butter, cod liver oil, and egg yolks) and mineral-rich foods (dark green leafy vegetables, sea salt and ocean veggies). Supplements that help in building a strong thyroid are kelp and selenium.

Most thyroid patients are women and many with low progesterone are often misdiagnosed as thyroid deficiency. Thyroid and sex hormones each affect the other. We often attend women with bulging eyes, racing heartbeat, and a swollen neck by naturally stimulating their progesterone production. Adding zinc to your daily supplement routine is important for sexual health.

Irregular periods, often leading to needless hysterectomies, are unfortunate common aspects of hypothyroidism; and breast disease. Too little thyroid production may cause increased prolactin levels and persistent estrogen stimulation. Prolactin is the hormone that stimulates the production of breast milk. Levels rise normally during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Abnormal changes in prolactin production can slow or stop your menstruation and you may find that you are producing milk from your breasts when you are not pregnant.

Get The Point! Your thyroid may not be working at its optimum if you are experiencing some of the symptoms mentioned above. If the guardian in your throat isn't handling the job anymore, maybe it's time for a change of guard. Take control of your health by opening the door to diet and lifestyle changes. Don't settle for "averages." We are all different; we offer specialized hormone and other testing. Let us prepare a personal plan to fortify your health. □

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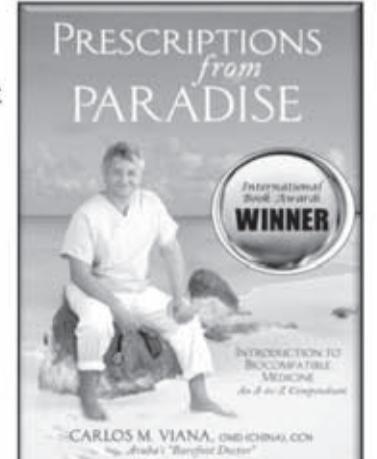
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Millennial Money: 'Tidy up' so each dollar sparks joy

By SEAN PYLES

Marie Kondo has inspired countless people to wipe out clutter. Her KonMari organizing method, popularized by her book and Netflix series, lays out how to get more joy from your life and possessions.

This approach can extend to your money, too. Applying her mindset can reduce the financial clutter in your life and help you make a better plan for each dollar. Here's how to "Marie Kondo" your finances.

COMMIT — AND IMAGINE A BETTER FUTURE

Before you dive in, commit yourself to the task and visualize what you'll gain.

Do you want to spend less on eating out? Are you saving up for a car or a house? Have a clear picture of your goal — a zero balance on your credit card, or that new car or home — to stay focused throughout the process.

"If you can create a mental image of what your life with your money will look like on the other side, it's a lot easier to create a path to get there," says Kimberly Zimmerman Rand, a Boston financial coach.

UNDERSTAND YOUR CATEGORIES



In this March 21, 2019 photo passers-by walk on a bridge between shopping centers, in Boston.

Associated Press

Kondo's method of tidying focuses on sorting through categories, like clothing, books and paperwork, and miscellaneous items.

Pull a few months of bank and credit card statements and take the same approach to your three main spending categories: needs, wants and savings.

NEEDS: The non-negotiables, like housing and debt payments, fall into this category. These monthly expenses may not bring you

joy, but they keep a roof over your head and your credit score afloat.

If this category consumes an outsized portion of your income, see where you can trim. Trading in your car for a less expensive one, for example, could mean an extra \$100 in your bank account every month. That gives you the ability to tuck a little more into savings.

Debt payments may be an unavoidable part of your budget, but you can

find ways to make them fit more neatly. If you're sorting through a mess of credit card bills, for example, see about reworking the terms. By consolidating debt onto a credit card with an introductory 0% interest rate or via a personal loan, you can pay less in interest, though you'll need good credit to qualify. And you'll have less paperwork and fewer monthly payments to manage.

WANTS: Chances are this

category brings you the most joy — but it's also likely where you can trim the most. Expenses like meals out, new clothes or vacations fit here.

Examine your spending on wants and ask if each one brings commensurate enjoyment. If not, trim or cut that expense. Keeping that money in your accounts could make you happier by reducing financial stress or helping you see progress on retirement savings.

Subscription services are an easy target, says Brian Walsh, a certified financial planner and manager of financial planning at SoFi, an online lender.

"When people start tracking their spending, they may see unused services come up," Walsh says. "Gym memberships, game memberships, Netflix and Hulu at the same time. These can be easy cuts to make."

SAVINGS: This category can be a little too easy to keep minimal. In fact, 4 in 10 Americans said they couldn't come up with \$400 in an emergency or would have to borrow or sell something, according to a May 2018 report by the Federal Reserve. □

US stocks move sideways as investors eye trade talks

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks swung between gains and losses in morning trading on Wall Street Wednesday as investors wait for key trade talks between the U.S. and China to start this week.

Investors have been on edge since President Donald Trump threatened to impose more tariffs on Chinese goods. Negotiations between the U.S. and China are set to continue in Washington on Thursday. Trump said via Twitter Wednesday that China intends to make a deal, but that he's happy to raise tariffs if the negotiations fail to produce an agreement.

The tougher trade rhetoric pushed indexes lower on Monday and then jolted them into a rout on Tuesday. The S&P 500 slumped

1.7%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 473.39 points, or 1.8%.

Investors have been antici-

all the major indexes. But, the latest tough talk is raising anxiety levels on Wall Street and casting more

ers. Utilities and household product companies lagged the broader market. Apple rose just under

1% and payment products company FleetCor Technologies surged 6.6% on solid first quarter earnings. □



In this March 11, 2019, file photo specialist Peter Mazza, left, and trader James Riley work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

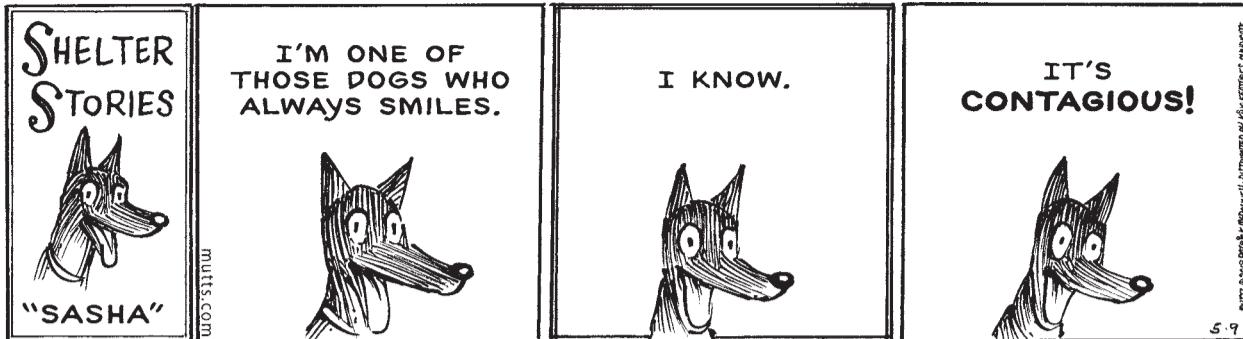
pating a deal throughout the year, which contributed to double-digit gains in

doubt about a resolution. Technology and energy companies led the gain-

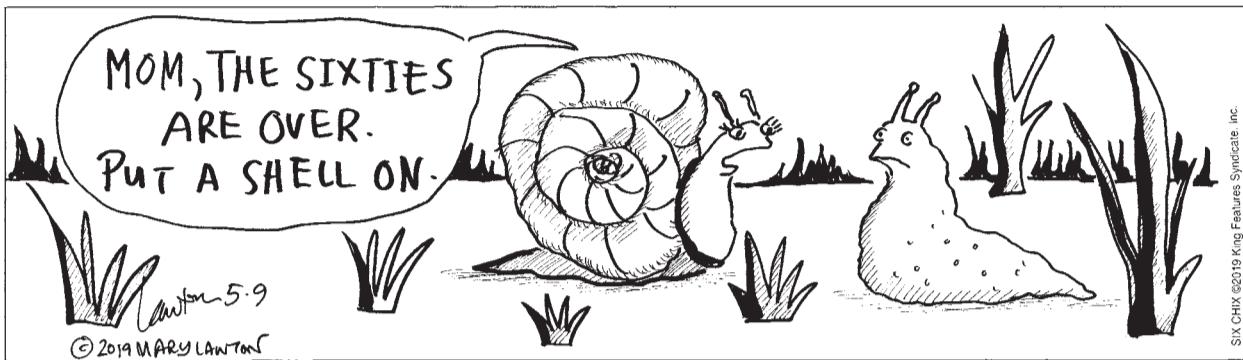
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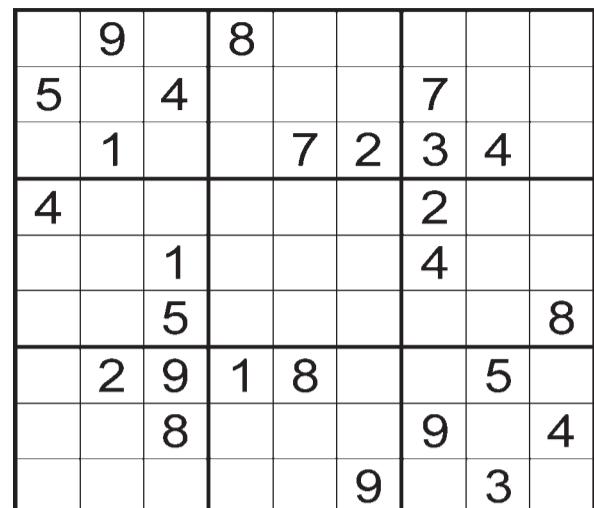
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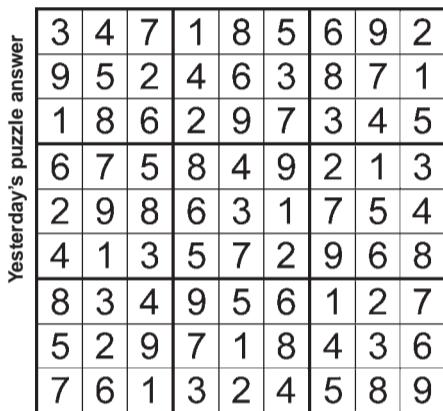
Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★

5/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



ACROSS

- 1 Hidden obstacle
- 5 Campbell's soup containers
- 9 Painting & dancing
- 13 More pleasant
- 15 Fissure; crevasse
- 16 Part of a plant
- 17 Family tree member
- 18 Ease
- 20 Quilting party
- 21 Throng
- 23 Good sense
- 24 Manicurist's focus
- 26 " _ You
Lonesome
Tonight?"
- 27 Insightful
- 29 Has confidence in
- 32 Parts of speech
- 33 Quarrels
- 35 Simple reply
- 37 Word of disgust
- 38 Jump through —
for; to please

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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63 Dancer Kelly	31 Grab	44 Charlotte or	53 " __ Land Is Your
64 __ up; arranges	33 Close relations	Emily	Land"
65 Additionally	34 Piece of	45 Uncooked	54 Mediocre
	cookware		
DOWN	36 Ran fast	47 College officials	56 __ times;
1 Ignore rudely	38 Vulnerable	48 Industrial city	golf course
2 Morning hour	39 Musketeers or	problem	reservations
3 Emphasize	Stooges	49 "It's all Greek __"	57 Natalie Cole's
4 Vaseline, e.g.	41 Passed out cards	50 Wrack's partner,	dad
5 Grouchy folks	42 Concrete	in phrase	59 "Caughtcha!"

Classifieds



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May 9

Carnival Horizon

May 15

Monarch

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This March 28, 2019 photo provided by Virginia Tech shows the fossilized bones of *Suskityrannus hazelae*, a miniature adult Tyrannosaurus dinosaur relative, in Blacksburg, Va., discovered by Sterling Nesbitt, an Assistant Professor of Geobiology. He found some of the original fossils when he was 17 years old.

Associated Press

Meet the T. rex cousin who you could literally look down on

WASHINGTON (AP) — History's most frightening dinosaur, the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, came from a long line of pipsqueaks. Scientists have identified a new cousin of the *T. rex* as a dinosaur that only reached the 3-foot height of a toddler. If it stretched its duck-billed head, an adult human maybe "would be looking at it in the eye," said Sterling Nesbitt, a paleontologist at Virginia Tech, who discovered the dinosaur.

Nesbitt found a set of its bones in 1998 when he was 16, while serving as a volunteer on a dig in New Mexico with a famed paleontologist. But for about two decades, scientists weren't certain what it was, until other small cousins of *T. rex* were discovered.

"The small group of tyrannosauroid dinosaurs would give rise to some of the biggest predators that we've ever seen," said Nesbitt, lead author of a study in Monday's journal *Nature*.

Ecology and Evolution. The new dinosaur is called *Suskityrannus hazelae*, named after the Zuni word for coyote. It dates back 92 million years, about 20 million years before the *T. rex* stomped the Earth.

The newly discovered cousin — which was three times longer than it was tall — weighed between 45 and 90 pounds, almost nothing compared to the nine-ton king of the dinosaurs. *Suskityrannus hazelae* isn't the first or even smallest of the *Tyrannosaurus* family tree, but Nesbitt said it provides the best example of how this family of modest-sized dinosaurs evolved into the towering horror of movies, television shows and nightmares.

Smithsonian Institution paleobiologist Hans Sues, who wasn't part of the study, said it was an important find. "*Suskityrannus* is the first really good record of the early tyrannosaurs in North America," he wrote in an email. □



An Original Impossible Burger, left, and a Cali Burger, from Umami Burger, are shown in this photo in New York, Friday, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

Meatsplainer: How new plant-based burgers compare to beef

By CANDICE CHOI

AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If you want to skip meat, a new era of options is here. Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods are among the companies racing to tap into the massive U.S. market of meat eaters by more closely mimicking the taste of beef than vegetarian patties of the past. Others are working to grow meat in labs. So are the plant-based patties better for you or for the planet? Here's what you might want to know before taking a bite:

ARE THEY HEALTHIER?

As with many questions about diet, it depends. For better or worse, patties from Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods can be nutritionally similar to beef. Beyond Meat's 4-ounce patty is listed at 270 calories, while Impossible Foods' is listed at 240 calories. Ground beef's nutritional profile can range, but a similarly sized patty with 80% lean meat has around 290 calories.

Protein content is about the same, while other nutrients vary. Some may like that the plant-based patties have fiber, but dislike that they're higher in sodium. For overall diet, what mat-

ters more might be how the patties are served, whether it's at Burger King, White Castle or elsewhere.

At Umami Burger in New York, for example, a burger with two Impossible patties, cheese and fixings tops 1,000 calories. Few would call it healthy, especially if served with fries and a soda.

"People are going to be fooling themselves into thinking these are not just better, but healthy," said Yoni Freedhoff, an obesity expert at the University of Ottawa.

People also may not realize the saturated fat content can be similar to beef burgers, he said.

WHAT'S IN THEM?

Beyond Meat's ingredients include pea protein and canola oil. Impossible Food's patties have soy protein and coconut oil. Impossible says its patties have a flavor and hue similar to beef partly because of soy leghemoglobin, a protein the company makes by genetically modifying yeast.

The meat industry, meanwhile, is appealing to people who prefer simpler ingredient lists.

"A beef patty is one natural ingredient: beef," says the North American Meat

Institute, which represents meat makers.

HOW DO THEY TASTE?

Taste is subjective, but reviews generally say Beyond Meat and Impossible burgers taste similar to meat. Christian Acosta, who works in New York, said he's had the Impossible burger several times and can't tell the difference.

"It tastes exactly like meat," he said, while waiting in line to get the burger for lunch. Unlike with a steak, any discrepancies in taste between beef and the plant-based burgers may be masked by buns, cheese and toppings. Both Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods have also updated their recipes, and may keep doing so to get even more like meat.

HOW MUCH DO THEY COST?

The idea is to eventually make Beyond and Impossible burgers cost the same or less than beef. For now, expect to pay more.

At a Whole Foods in New York, two Beyond Meat patties cost \$5.99, roughly double the price of two ground beef patties. Impossible burgers aren't yet available in grocery stores. But at a Bareburger restaurant in New York, it's an extra \$3 for either of the plant-based patties. □

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Hello, Archie! Meghan and Harry name son Archie Harrison

By JILL LAWLESS

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Tired but beaming, Meghan and Prince Harry showed the public their baby son's face for the first time on Wednesday, and also revealed his name: Archie.

The royal couple said their son, seventh in line to the British throne, is named Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor.

Mountbatten-Windsor is a surname used by some members of the royal family.

The couple did not choose an aristocratic title for the baby, who is not a prince but could have been given a title with "Lord" before his first name.

The couple did not disclose why they had chosen the names — though the meaning of Harrison, "son of Harry," could be a clue. Many royal-watchers had expected a more traditional royal name, with bookmakers taking many bets on Alexander, Arthur and James.

Archie is an increasingly popular name in Britain



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, during a photocall with their newborn son, in St George's Hall at Windsor Castle, Windsor, south England, Wednesday May 8, 2019.

Associated Press

and was among top 20 most common boy's names in 2017, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Famous Archies include former NFL quarterback Archie Manning, jazz saxophonist Archie Shepp and red-haired cartoon teenager Archie Andrews.

The announcement came

hours after the proud parents posed for cameras, helping to satisfy a huge global appetite for images and details about their newborn son.

Standing in the vast, red-carpeted St. George's Hall at Windsor Castle, Meghan declared the baby was "a dream" and called motherhood "magic."

Harry cradled his son in his arms as the couple posed for the cameras — the first in a lifetime of photo calls for the two-day-old baby, who is seventh in line to the British throne.

The baby lay silently, swaddled in a white merino wool shawl and wearing a matching knitted cap. Both were made by English firm

G.H. Hurt & Son, which has supplied three generations of royal babies with knitwear.

Meghan declared motherhood to be "magic."

"It's pretty amazing," said the 37-year-old American, formerly known as Meghan Markle. "I have the two best guys in the world, so I'm really happy."

She said the baby — born Monday at 5:26 a.m. weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces (3.26 kilograms) — had "just been a dream."

"He has the sweetest temperament. He's really calm," she said.

Harry quipped: "I wonder who he gets that from."

Asked who the baby took after, Harry said it was too soon to tell.

"Everyone says that babies change so much over two weeks," said the 34-year-old prince. "We're basically monitoring how the changing process happens over this next month really. But his looks are changing every single day, so who knows."

"We're just so thrilled to have our own little bundle of joy," he added. □

Zac Brown, Lambert and Morris lead CMT Music Awards noms

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — It's a wide-open field for this year's CMT Music Awards as four artists have a leading three nominations each: Brothers Osborne, Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris and Zac Brown Band.

Nominations for the awards, to be held on June 5 in Nashville, Tennessee, were announced Tuesday and fan voting is now open at vote.cmt.com. Grammy-winning act Little Big Town, who are nominated for two awards, are returning for a second year as hosts for the show airing live on CMT from Nashville, Tennessee.

Carrie Underwood has the most awards in CMT history with 18 and she's nominated for video of the year and female video of the year. Other artists getting two nominations include Jason Aldean, Kelsea Ballerini, Dierks Bentley, Kane Brown, Luke Bryan, Eric



In a Tuesday, May 16, 2017 file photo, Zac Brown from the Zac Brown Band performs on NBC's Today show at Rockefeller Plaza, in New York.

Associated Press

Church, Luke Combs, Dan + Shay, Florida Georgia Line, Kacey Musgraves and

Cole Swindell. Fourteen videos are in the running for video of the

year, and the top five nominees in that category will be announced the morn-

ing of the show.

The pop-friendly awards show also celebrates non-country acts who collaborate within the genre. Taylor Swift, who has won three CMT video of the year awards before crossing over to pop, has two nominations along with Sugarland for their duet called "Babe" and pop singer-songwriter Julia Michaels also earned two with Keith Urban for their duet called "Coming Home."

Americana artist Brandi Carlile picked up two nominations, including female video of the year for her song "The Joke," despite it not being played on country radio. In addition, Shawn Mendes, Boyz II Men and Leon Bridges also all earned nominations for CMT performance of the year after collaborations with country artists on the cable channel's shows. □

Disney slates Fox films, 'Avatar' pushed another year

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Now armed with the upcoming releases of 20th Century Fox, the Walt Disney Co. on Tuesday set forth a shock-and-awe release schedule spanning the next eight years, including the yet-again-postponed "Avatar" sequels, a new batch of "Star Wars" releases and Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" adaptation.

Since Disney's \$71.3 billion acquisition of Fox was completed in March, the studio hadn't budged on the listed release dates of a number of Fox releases, even as it was increasingly apparent to the industry that high-profile upcoming films were sure to be delayed under the Disney shake-up. But the most notable delay announced Tuesday was a familiar one: The long wait for more "Avatar" films will



This image released by 20th Century Fox shows the characters Neytiri, right, and Jake in a scene from the 2009 movie "Avatar."

Associated Press

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Detective PIKACHU
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU	5:50	8:15		
FRI	5:50	8:15	10:30		
SAT	1:00	3:25	5:50	8:15	10:30
SUN	1:00	3:25	5:50	8:15	

PBP
MON-THU 5:30 | 7:50
FRI 5:30 | 7:50 | 10:10
SAT 12:50 | 3:10 | 5:30 | 7:50 | 10:10
SUN 12:50 | 3:10 | 5:30 | 7:50

PBP
MON-THU 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10
FRI 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:30
SAT 2:10 | 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:30
SUN 2:10 | 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10

SPANISH
MON-THU 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30
FRI 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50
SAT 1:30 | 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50
SUN 1:30 | 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30

ANNE HATHAWAY | REBEL WILSON
THE HUSTLE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU	5:00	7:15	9:30	
FRI	5:00	7:15	9:30	11:45	
SAT	2:45	5:00	7:15	9:30	11:45
SUN	2:45	5:00	7:15	9:30	

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | CHRIS EVANS
AVENGERS: ENDGAME
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU	4:35	6:50	8:20		
FRI	4:35	6:50	8:20	10:30		
SAT	12:50	3:05	4:35	6:50	8:20	10:30
SUN	12:50	3:05	4:35	6:50	8:20	

PBP
MON-FRI 4:55 | 8:40
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 4:55 | 8:40

PBP
CXC
MON-SUN 3:45 | 7:30

PBP
MON-THU 6:30
FRI 6:30 | 10:10
SAT 2:45 | 6:30 | 10:10
SUN 2:45 | 6:30

SPANISH
MON-SUN 8:40

MICHAEL EALY | DENNIS QUAID
THE INTRUDER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU	5:45	8:10		
FRI	5:45	8:10	10:35		
SAT	1:00	3:20	5:45	8:10	10:35
SUN	1:00	3:20	5:45	8:10	

PBP
MON-THU & SUN 4:35 | 9:30
FRI-SAT 4:35 | 9:30 | 11:55

KELLY CLARKSON | NICK JONAS
UGLYDOLLS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-FRI	5:10	7:15		
	SAT-SUN	1:00	3:05	5:10	7:15

PBP
MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:40
SAT-SUN 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40

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go on a little longer. James Cameron's long-delayed "Avatar 2" will now open in theaters on December 17, 2021, instead of its most recent date of December 18, 2020 — which itself followed numerous already scrapped release dates. The subsequent "Avatar" sequels have moved to 2023, 2025 and 2027, respectively.

Cameron's original "Avatar" came out in 2009. Disney's "Avengers: Endgame" is currently approaching the film's \$2.8 billion box-office record with \$2.2 billion in worldwide ticket sales af-

ter less than two weeks of release. Disney previously dated eight Marvel movies over the next three and a half years, though it's yet to map out its post-"Endgame" cinematic universe.

Disney also dated three untitled "Star Wars" films to arrive in theaters in 2022, 2024 and 2026. The company hasn't revealed details of those projects. "Star

Wars: The Last Jedi" director Rian Johnson is developing a new trilogy for the space saga.

That means that Disney, which this December will release "Star Wars: The Rise

of Skywalker," is set to rule the next nine Christmas box office seasons with either an "Avatar" or a "Star Wars" movie, except for one. For the lone exception, December 2020, the company has dated Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" (Dec. 18) and "Cruella" (Dec. 23), a Cruella De Vil origin story starring Emma Stone.

As expected, a number of upcoming Fox films were delayed. James Grey's science-fiction tale "Ad Astra," with Brad Pitt, has been pushed from May 24 to September 20. □

Kristen Stewart celebrates young stars redefining sexuality



Kristen Stewart attends the LA Premiere of "JT LeRoy" at Arclight Hollywood on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By RYAN PEARSON

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kristen Stewart says she felt a "huge responsibility" to define her sexuality after finding fame in the "Twilight" movie franchise. But she's glad today's young stars don't have to do so. The 29-year-old actress said

she was "so gay" on "Saturday Night Live" two years ago. But she sees a shift in culture that's allowed young people — in and outside Hollywood — to accept fluidity in gender and sexuality.

"I felt this huge responsibility, like one that I was really genuinely worried about, if I wasn't able to say one way or the other, then was I sort of like forsaking a side," said Stewart, who also had a long-term relationship with "Twilight" co-star Robert Pattinson.

"The fact that you don't have to now is like so much more truthful," said Stewart. The actress stars alongside Laura Dern in "J.T. LeRoy," a biopic about a young

woman named Savannah Knoop whose sister-in-law Laura Albert created LeRoy as a literary persona. Knoop pretended to be a man in public appearances as the celebrated author, and now identifies as nonbinary. Stewart celebrates that decision along with statements from younger Hollywood stars like Sophie Turner, 23, who have refused to label their sexuality. "If you were to have this conversation with someone like in high school, they'd probably like roll their eyes and go, 'Why are you complicating everything so much?' ... Just sort of do what you want to do," she said. "It's really nice." □

Springsteen, Scorsese talk Catholicism, films and creativity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With a friendship going back to a fateful meeting at The Roxy in 1975, Bruce Springsteen and Martin Scorsese shared the stage in Los Angeles Sunday night for a wide-ranging conversation about everything from their Catholic upbringings and maturing faith to Flannery O'Connor, concert documentaries and the role of an audience.

The Netflix-hosted event was in support of the Emmys campaign for his one-man show "Springsteen on Broadway" at the streaming service's FYSEE (a riff on "for your consideration") space in the heart of Hollywood.

An earnest Springsteen laughed at himself as he prepared to close out the evening and charm the crowd with an acoustic performance of "Dancing in the Dark" that he was "here today begging complete strangers for votes." But what better way to do so than with a nostalgic performance and a heartfelt chat about creativity and faith with one of the greatest living filmmakers. And they didn't waste time getting to the heavy stuff. "All my work was informed by my years in Catholic school," Springsteen said to the intimate crowd of Emmy voters and press at the start. "All that redemp-



In this Monday, Nov. 5, 2018, file photo, Bruce Springsteen performs at the 12th annual Stand Up For Heroes benefit concert at the Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

tion, damnation, all the Martin Scorsese films. ... As I got older I stopped fighting against it. Now I draw on it and enjoy it. There's no greater well to draw on than myths of Catholicism. Everything is in there." He said "Mean Streets" in particular was on point for "An altar boy like myself." Scorsese responded that even his upcoming Netflix film, "The Irishman," deals with the same thing, "Trust, loyalty, betrayal and faith." The two said they both find inspiration in the stories of Flannery O'Connor (Scorsese recommended her let-

ters to The Boss) and Springsteen said he's always found that, "the darkness is more interesting than the light." He connected it to other artists he finds interesting, from Hank Williams, to Bob Dylan and Robert De Niro, who he said has a "two-hour face." "It's, 'What's bothering that guy? Something is bothering that guy,'" Springsteen said. "Those are the things that keep us watching. That's why you can watch Bob De Niro's face for two hours, not 15 minutes. It never gives up its secrets." Scorsese added that au-

diences are often looking for answers, but the art he goes back is the kind that doesn't provide them, which they both found similar to how they experience faith as they mature. The two eventually got around to discussing "Springsteen on Broadway," which was born by accident, after President Barack Obama asked him to play at the White House in the last few weeks of his administration. Springsteen decided to combine performances with storytelling — he'd just written a memoir after all and it was fresh

— and that's what would eventually become the Broadway show and the film.

As with Scorsese's "The Last Waltz," "Springsteen on Broadway" does not cut away to the audience. The director, Thom Zimny, didn't even want one at first, but Springsteen protested.

"I said, 'Well who's going to laugh at my jokes?'" he said.

They compromised on half of an audience.

"(We) didn't want to telegraph to the viewer what you're supposed to feel," Springsteen said.

The film was taped across two nights, the first night of which Springsteen admitted he botched because he was on stage, "Thinking about what I was doing ...

When you're too completely self-conscious you're not in it."

And he was striving for De Niro's "two-hour face," or, something that would keep the audience interested even though at the heart of it, it's just, "One old guy and an acoustic guitar."

He also used monologues and stories to help contextualize the songs that the world knows so well already and "give them renewed meaning."

"As the songs come out of the monologues it's as if you've never heard them before," Scorsese said. □

Musician Ani DiFranco's memoir is raw and powerful

By RAGAN CLARK

Ani DiFranco, "No Walls and the Recurring Dream" (Viking)

Ani DiFranco has spent decades challenging the status quo, standing up for what she believes and creating honest, raw music. Her memoir is an extension of these passions. Looking at her lyrics over the years, it has always been clear: She cherishes the written word. In the pages of her memoir, "No Walls and the Recurring Dream," she carries on this love affair.

Those familiar with the work of DiFranco, a Grammy Award-winner who found-

ed her own record label and has a career spanning over 20 albums, know she is not one to shy away from her opinions.

It is not uncommon when listening to her work to hear a verse that speaks out against patriarchy, the death penalty or the government's imperialism. So it comes as no surprise that in her memoir, DiFranco does not hold back.

"No Walls and the Recurring Dream," is unapologetic, steadfast and vulnerable. It's as if DiFranco has invited you into the living room of her New Orleans home to have a long discussion

about how she got to where she is, from creating her first record to meeting Prince and recording in his home. Readers who are already DiFranco fans are offered a window through which to better understand her music (just in case you've ever wondered about the story behind "Untouchable Face"). She gives you the rich context of her past and passions that have culminated in emotional verses and honest storytelling through the years. The book also stands alone, for those who haven't before encountered DiFranco. She is vulnerable in a way

that is brave; she recognizes the imperfect moments in her existence just as she acknowledges her own triumphs. The honesty of her introspection encourages the reader to look internally as well. "Whatever the thing is that you are resisting the most, whatever thing will be the most painful, that is the thing you must do," she writes.

To her credit, DiFranco meets the reader where she or he is. Yes, she has strong opinions, but she makes it clear from the onset that she is not just someone who talks; she is also someone who listens. □



This cover image released by Viking shows "No Walls and the Recurring Dream," a memoir by Ani DiFranco.

Associated Press

Chinese researchers try brain implants to treat addiction

By ERIKA KINETZ

SHANGHAI (AP) — The sound of doctors boring through his skull to feed electrodes deep into his brain made Yan tremble. "The drill was like bzzzzzz," he later recalled. "The moment of drilling is the most terrible."

Yan has been using methamphetamine since 2011. The hope is that technology will extinguish his addiction — quite literally, with the flip of a switch.

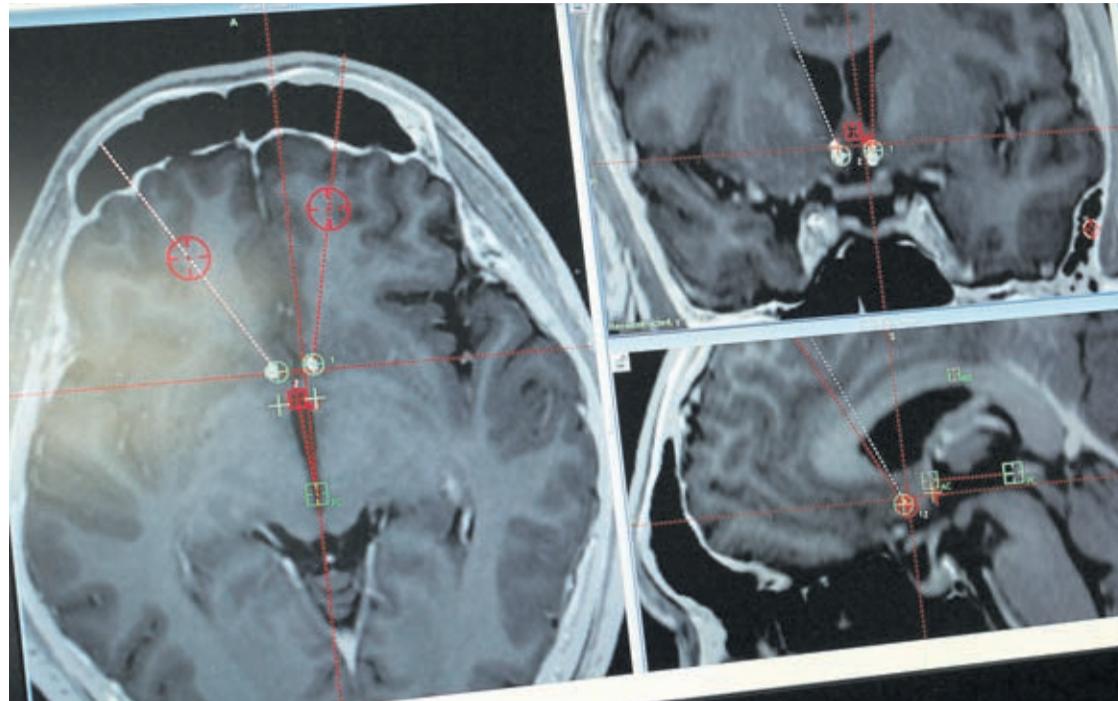
The treatment — deep brain stimulation — has long been used for movement disorders like Parkinson's. Now, the first clinical trial of DBS for methamphetamine addiction is being conducted at Shanghai's Ruijin Hospital, along with trials for opioid addiction. Yan is the study's first patient; for fear of losing his job, he asked that only his surname be published.

Western attempts to push forward with human trials of deep brain stimulation for drug addiction have foundered, even as China has emerged as a hub for this kind of research.

But the vast suffering wrought by the U.S. opioid epidemic may be changing the risk-reward calculus for doctors and regulators. Now, the experimental surgery Yan underwent is coming to America. In February, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration greenlighted a clinical trial in West Virginia of DBS for opioid addiction. Until now, complex ethical, social and scientific questions made it hard to push forward with such experiments in the United States, where the devices can cost \$100,000 to implant. Scientists in Europe have struggled to recruit patients for their DBS addiction studies.

Globally, there are eight registered DBS clinical trials for drug addiction, according to a U.S. National Institutes of Health database. Six are in China.

China has a long, troubled history of using brain surgery to treat addiction. Doctors destroyed small clumps of tissue in the brains of heroin users, garnering huge prof-



This Monday, Oct. 29, 2018, photo shows a brain scan of a methamphetamine user with the path of electrodes that doctors at Ruijin Hospital in Shanghai, China implanted to stimulate an area of the brain associated with addiction.

Associated Press

its and leaving behind a trail of patients with mood disorders, lost memories and altered sex drives.

In 2004, China's Ministry of Health ordered a halt to the practice at most hospitals. Nine years later, a military hospital in Xi'an reported that roughly half of 1,167 patients who had their brains lesioned stayed off drugs for at least five years.

DBS builds on that history. The surgery involves implanting a device that acts as a kind of pacemaker for the brain, electrically stimulating targeted areas.

Instead of irreversibly killing brain cells, the devices allow interventions that are — in theory — reversible. The technology has opened a fresh field of human experimentation globally.

"For many other psychiatric disorders, for example, anorexia schizophrenia, OCD, there's no way to use the animal to be like a model," said Dr. Sun Bomin, director of the functional neurosurgery center at Ruijin Hospital. "For these kinds of special psychiatric disorders we have to use human patients."

Some believe such human

experiments for drug addiction should not be allowed.

Critics argue that they are premature, and will not address the complex biological, social and psychological factors that drive addiction. Scientists don't fully understand how DBS works and there is still debate about where electrodes should be placed to treat addiction. There is also skepticism in the global scientific community about the general quality and ethical rigor of clinical trials done in China.

"It would be fantastic if there



A stereotactic device presses into the head of a brain surgery patient at Ruijin Hospital's functional neurosurgery center in Shanghai, China on Monday, Oct. 29, 2018.

Associated Press

were something where we could flip a switch, but it's probably fanciful at this stage," said Adrian Carter, who heads the neuroscience and society group at Monash University in Melbourne. "There's a lot of risks that go with promoting that idea."

Meanwhile, the body count from addiction is rising. More than 500,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in the decade ending in 2017, adding urgency to the search for new, more effective treatments.

But research for DBS as an addiction treatment funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health has focused on animals, not people. And at least two U.S. laboratories dropped clinical trials of DBS for treating alcoholism over concerns about study design and preliminary results that didn't seem to justify the risks, investigators who led the studies told The Associated Press.

"The lack of scientific clarity, the important but strict regulatory regime, along with the high cost and risk of surgery make clinical trials of DBS for addiction in the U.S. difficult at the present time," said Dr. Emad Eskandar, chairman of neurological surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York.

China's studies have offered mixed results. Sun and his colleagues have published one case study, describing a patient who used heroin and fatally overdosed after getting DBS. But a separate pilot study published in January by doctors at a military hospital in Xi'an showed that five of eight heroin users stayed off drugs for two years after DBS surgery.

Based on those results, the Chinese deep brain stimulation device manufacturer SceneRay Corp. is seeking Chinese regulatory approval of its DBS device for opioid addiction, and funding a clinical trial targeting 60 participants. SceneRay chairman Ning Yihua said his application for a clinical trial in the U.S. was blocked by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. □